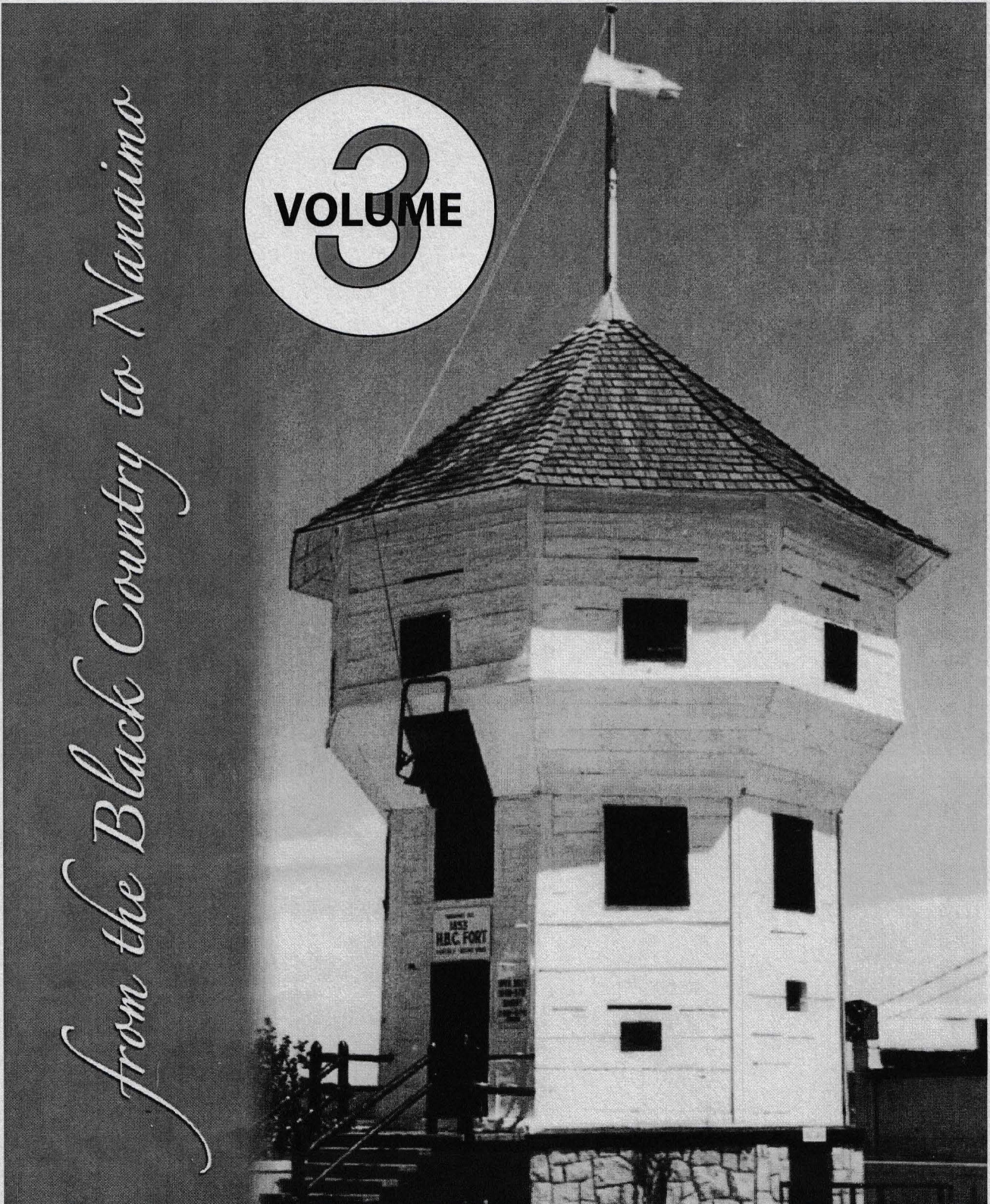


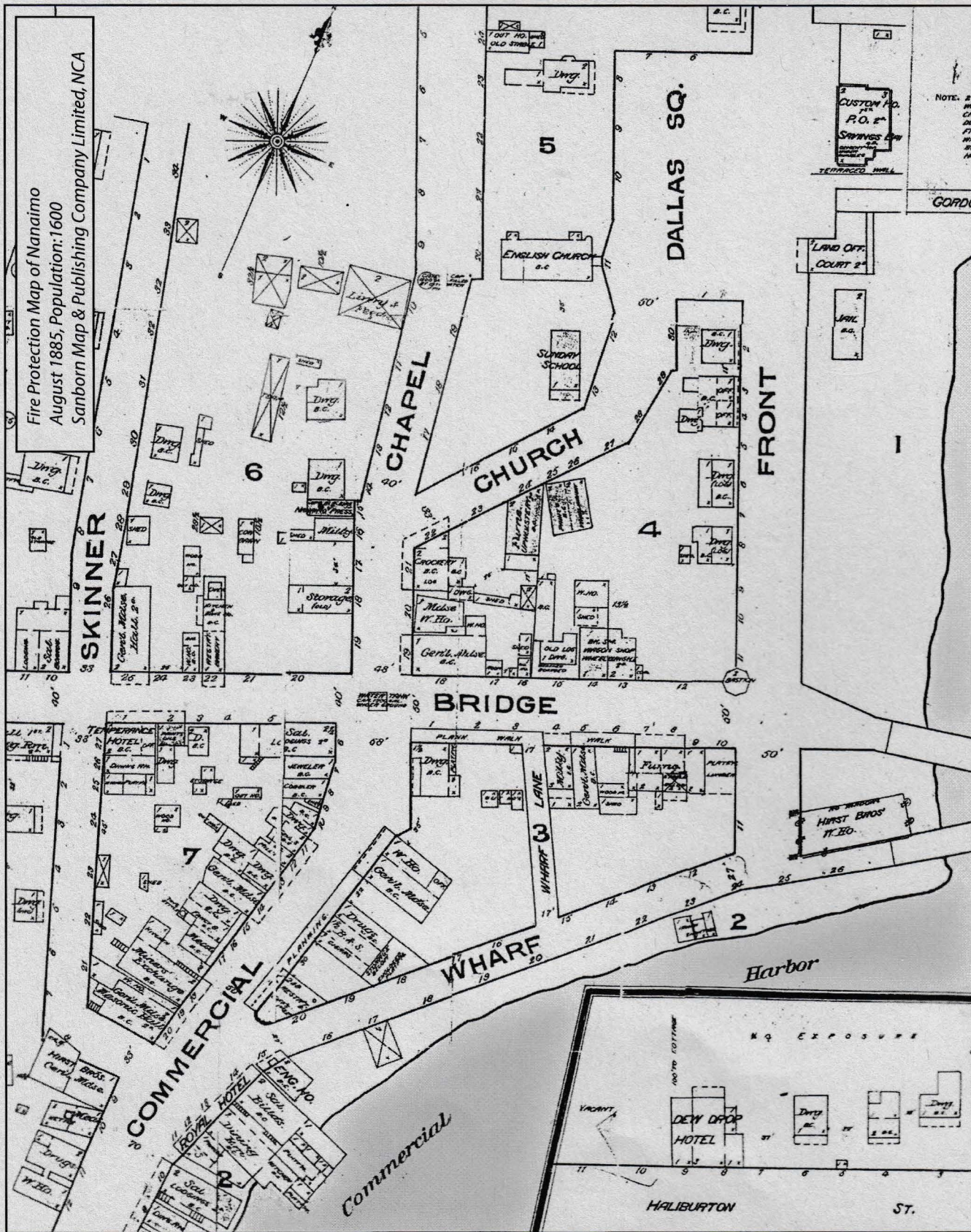
Pioneer Settlement 1854

from the Black Country to Nanaimo

VOLUME
3



Fire Protection Map of Nanaimo
August 1885, Population: 1600
Sanborn Map & Publishing Company Limited, NCA



Pioneer Settlement 1854

from the Black Country to Nanaimo



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Volume 2	John and Lavinia Malpass
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Abbreviations used in the footnotes and captions

BCARS: British Columbia Archives and Records Service

HBC: Hudson's Bay Company

HBCA-PAM: Hudson's Bay Company Archives - Provincial Archives of Manitoba

Ibid: (Latin, short for "ibidem", "the same place") is the term used to provide an endnote or footnote citation or reference for a source that was cited in the preceding endnote or footnote. To find the Ibid source, one has to look at the reference right before it, and so 'Ibid' serves a similar purpose to ditto marks ("").

IGI: International Genealogical Index

NCA: Nanaimo Community Archives

NDFP: Nanaimo Daily Free Press

NDM: Nanaimo District Museum

NFP: Nanaimo Free Press

In the references to Nanaimo Cemetery Records, the actual records could be at City Hall, the Nanaimo Community Archives as part of the Nanaimo Cemetery Trustee fonds, Plot Book or The Nanaimo Family History Society which has published the Surname Index to the Nanaimo Cemetery 1876-1976, May 1992.

Acknowledgements

The Historical Society would like to acknowledge and thank a number of people for their input to these volumes. Apart from the work of Peggy Nicholls, members of her family were pressed into service to assist in compiling the genealogical charts. Without the photographs and documents provided by a number of *Princess Royal* families some details would have been sketchy. After the initial publications, they also came forward with additional information for inclusion. We are grateful that they were willing to share all these family treasures.

The Nanaimo District Museum has provided most of the copying services and in particular Debbie Trueman, the General Manager, has been especially supportive from the beginning. Christine Meutzner, Archives Manager of the Nanaimo Community Archives, was particularly helpful in seeking out and establishing sources and we appreciate the generous assistance of the British Columbia Archives and Records

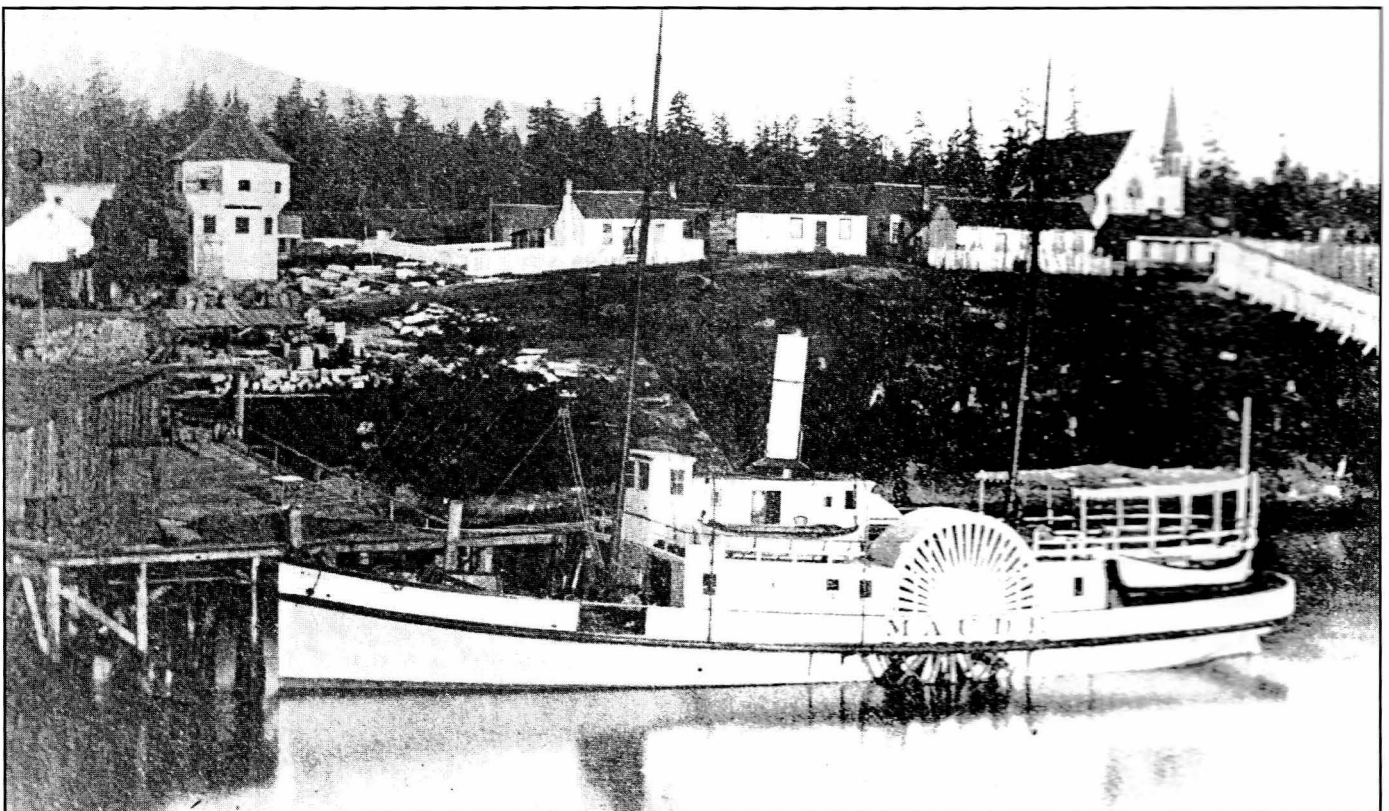
Service. Peggy also had recourse to the Hudson's Bay Company Archives in Manitoba and to several historians in England. Dr. Helen Brown, of Malapina University-College, added her significant expertise. Pamela and Daphne have seen the books through from the first publication in 1991. The final technical formatting of the new edition has been conceived by Helena Poll who did the layout and graphic design. It has been a privilege for us to work on the reprinting of these stories so that part of Nanaimo's early history will continue to be available.

Pamela Mar,
Daphne Paterson.

2007

*Nanaimo in 1872
from an original glass
negative by F. Dundas
Todd.*

*Nanaimo Community
Archives (NCA) 2000
009 A-P60*



Preface

Locally born historian's five year labour of love

When the idea for compiling a short history of the 24 families who arrived in Nanaimo in November 1854 was first discussed, it was expected to be brief biographies of the travellers. The project was turned over to the capable hands of locally born historian and genealogist Peggy Nicholls, who expanded it into a five-year labour of love.

The first volume encompassed the way in which the families were recruited in the Midlands of England, the hardships of the six-month voyage aboard the *Princess Royal* and something of the small town for which they were destined. Also included was a brief note on George Robinson, who was to be the Mine Manager, and a family tree supplied by the family.

This suggested that a family tree of each of the families would enhance their stories. Few of them had maintained extended family chronicles, so Peggy set to work on creating the charts from English church and civil records for as many families as possible. Some settlers had left Nanaimo over the years and it was not feasible to trace them from the little that was known about them. Nevertheless almost all have been identified and tracked as far as possible.

Family co-operation was essential. Old photo albums were scoured and historic photos produced; younger descendants identified their ancestors and told stories they had heard from grandparents. Some photos were retrieved from the Nanaimo and Provincial Archives and corroborative checks were made. The descendants of each of the *Princess Royal* passengers were recorded as far as could be ascertained.

As successive volumes were published each November 27th the families eagerly snapped them up. During each year re-prints had to be made. It was not just the descendants who were interested. Genealogists bought them for the family trees. Visitors from Britain or people who had family there purchased them for the history they contained. Letters arrived from many sources asking for copies. The small volumes have found their way world-wide.

Personal computing was in a fairly early stage when the work began, and our "compositor" honed her skills on the books after they had been



Peggy Nicholls

edited and checked. Now technology has greatly improved and far more is possible. The five books, which were of uneven length, have been re-set, some of the facts have been re-checked, and some new photographs included. Other material has come to light since 1991 and some of this has been added, mainly as footnotes. We did not want to interrupt the flow of Peggy Nicholls' original work, which has been recognized by eminent historians as a tour-de-force.

The publishers, The Nanaimo Historical Society, are immensely grateful for the work that Peggy put into this history. It must be stressed that it was because of her personal knowledge of the families that so much was entrusted to her, and to Peggy and the families we owe a debt of gratitude.

It was decided to continue to publish the histories as a series of volumes, though not quite in the same form as before.

Daphne Paterson
Pamela Mar

July 2007

John and Jane Biggs

Notes:

1. Hudson's Bay Company Archives – Provincial Archives of Manitoba (HBCA-PAM) A10/35.

2. American Consul in Birmingham, 1868. *The Black Country Museum Pamphlet*, Dudley, West Midlands.

3. Nanaimo Community Archives (NCA), Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) fonds, Nanaimo Memoranda 1855-1857 26 August 1855.

4. Ibid. 1 June 1856.

5. Ibid. 4 March 1856.

6. Ibid. 8 March 1856.

7. Nanaimo citizens live in one community outside the United Kingdom, which still celebrates Guy Fawkes Day. In 1605 Guy Fawkes had attempted to blow up the House of Lords. A note in the parliamentary records of the day states – "This last night the upper house of Parlyment was searched" and two men "apprehended who had placed 36 barells of gunpowder in the vawt...to blowe K [King James] and the whole company." Jim Hume, *Victoria Colonist*, 3 November 1992.

8. NCA, HBC fonds, Nanaimo Memoranda 1855-1857 5 November 1856.

JOHN and JANE BIGGS, like the Richardson brothers, were not Staffordshire born. All had originated from Somerset. John Biggs, 26 and Jane, 24,¹ were born near Paulton, Somerset, an area noted for cattle farming, cider, stone quarrying and a small coal mine. The largest cattle market in the southwest of England is still held at Taunton, Somerset. This is where the Biggs family records are kept. John was both a carpenter and a miner, but the move to the Midlands may have had an effect on his outlook on remaining in the area. The American Consul at that time described the scene that met the Biggs with these words:

"The Black Country.. black by day and red by night.. cannot be matched for vast and varied productions by any sphere of equal radius on the surface of the globe. The furnaces roar and glow by night and day, and the great steam hammers thunder..."²

This is a far cry from Biggs' pastoral Somerset and equally different from their move to the heavily forested Nanaimo.

Their first home in Nanaimo was in a row of three houses on what is now Chapel Street. It was shared with John and Lavinia Malpass and their two children.

After Elijah Ganner's son drowned when he fell beneath the logs destined for the mill on the Millstone River, John Biggs was one of twelve men chosen to serve on the first coroner's jury in Nanaimo.

*"August 1855 – Sunday 26th A.M. – calm Thermometer 68 - An inquest was held upon the body of the lad Ganner before Charles E. Stuart, J.P. and twelve jurymen - all of whom pronounced universally the verdict of "accidental death by drowning" The following are the names of the Jurymen, John McGregor, Thomas Green, William Isbister, Jesse Sage, Robert Dunsmuir, John Meakin, Edward Walker, Thomas Cole, Leon Labine, Matthew Miller, John Biggs."*³

In 1855 Jane gave birth to a daughter, Sarah Jane. On June 1st 1856, she had a son whom they called Henry.⁴

John was doing some mining on his own by 1856. Charles Stuart dispatched a letter and five invoices to Victoria to be approved by Chief Factor James Douglas. One of these was for John's services.⁵ The Hudson's Bay Company bought his coal at a set rate. The next month he was engaged in sinking a shaft with George Bull and John Baker on their own account.⁶ This proved to be shallow and was abandoned.

Another entry tells of the custom of Guy Fawkes Day in which all the miners participated and is still celebrated today.⁷ "8.15 p.m. 5 November 1856 the inhabitants amused themselves with bonfires and firing of guns. One of the carpenters got severely burned."⁸

In the spring of 1857 Dr. Alfred Benson reported John as being sick. After his contract was completed in 1859, John pre-empted land outside the boundaries of the HBC's holdings on the peninsula across Nanaimo Harbour. This area became known as Biggs Portage, for he accepted the Native peoples' tradition of access over the land to avoid the rough waters around the peninsula. Boaters also began to use the passage



*Right:
Biggs Family
Back row: Eliza,
Catherine Biggs
(née Munro)?, Henry,
Louisa, Elizabeth
Front row: Catherine's
mother?, Ann, John
Biggs Sr.
Held by Family*

and in later years John had some government help to widen the channel so that the short cut could be used at all tides.⁹

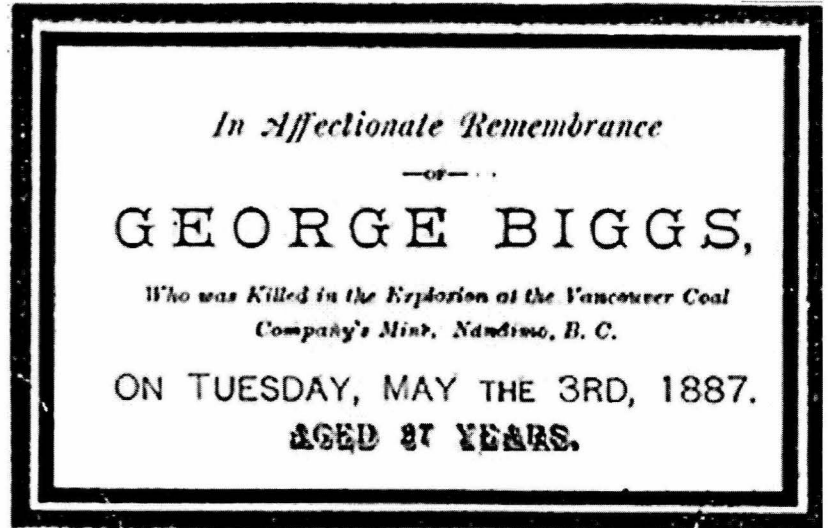
During 1863 and 1864 John took advances on his pay from the Vancouver Coal Company for he remained a miner.

As with all farmers there were adversities. In 1874 he offered a reward of \$100 in the Nanaimo Free Press as someone had shot three of his cattle on or about April 4th. On March 23rd 1876, there was a severe windstorm, which destroyed his 20 by 30 foot log barn. The roof was carried half a mile away. There were 232 trees blown down in the area.¹⁰

According to Mark Bate, John was a "frank conscientious man... [who] would not knowingly do wrong himself nor fail to express the utmost indignation for those who did."¹¹ His grandson Herschel remembered him as being tall and straight as if he had a board in his back.

Jane, to whom her family meant everything, died of a stroke on February 3rd 1879, age 49. John had another great loss in the mine explosion on May 3rd 1887 when his son **GEORGE** was killed. George's body was one of the few not retrieved after the explosion. The rescue workers could not secure the mine roof. The bodies were believed to be under a fall of rock and dirt forty feet deep. It was deemed prudent not to risk life for the uncertain chance of speedy recovery. The area was sealed off.¹² It was reopened many years later and George's nephew, Herschel, found remains thought to be the entombed miners. The clothes belonging to the men fell apart when touched. The bones were collected and buried.

John returned to Somerset and married a woman named Eliza from his home town; possibly someone he had known earlier for she was about his own age. Herschel remembered his step-grandmother giving each of the Biggs



grandchildren 25¢ for Christmas. They considered this a princely sum.

John moved from the farm and built several houses on Watkins Street. He and Eliza lived in one of them. This became known as Biggs' Row.

In July and August 1899, the Nanaimo Free Press gave regular accounts of John's failing health. He had dropsy¹³ and a heart condition. He died at his residence on Watkins Street on August 22nd 1899.¹⁴ John left \$25 a month to his widow Eliza for her lifetime and wanted to make sure his girls had some financial independence as his will states "The share of each of my daughters is to be settled to her sole and separate use for her life free from control of any husband and without power of anticipation."¹⁵

Eliza lived with her stepson William until she died on January 22nd 1907.

Top:
George Biggs's death
announcement
(NCA)

Notes:

9. *Nanaimo Free Press* (NFP), June 1888.

10. NFP, 24 March 1876.

11. Bate, Mark.
"Reminiscences of Early
Nanaimo" *Nanaimo Daily
Free Press* (NDFP), 3 April
1907.

12. NFP, 8 to 20 May 1887.

13. Edema or swelling

14. NDFP, 22, 23 and 24
August 1899.

15. British Columbia
Archives and Records
Service (BCARS), Will #548,
GR1052.

Left:
John Biggs's
signature on his will
(BCARS) Will#548
GR1052

The Biggs Descendants

Wellington Baseball Club – Winners of the J.J. Grant Cup in 1923 (front row from left) Charlie MacDonald, George Dunbar, Ernie Lorandini (mascot), Joe Zicarelli, Ronnie Zicarelli, (centre) Tal Biggs, (back row from left) Tom Cook (trainer), Pete Hendrickson, Alex Macdonald, Louis Zicarelli, Jim Biggs, Herschel Biggs, Bill Loudon and John Saunders. Held by family

SARAH JANE, the oldest of the large Biggs family was born in Nanaimo in 1855. She married John Curry a miner who worked at Nanaimo, Wellington and Extension. Sarah died on November 27th 1901, aged 46. After the turn of the century John became night watchman at Extension. They had had three children, **Elizabeth Jane** born in 1877, **Ann** in 1878 and **John** in 1879. Elizabeth Jane married Thomas Kerr and had several children. She died on October 2nd 1909. On the 5th her family and friends were attending her funeral when an explosion occurred at Extension, killing 25 miners. It was felt that many more would have been killed had they been at work. Thomas was unable to look after his children so the older ones were placed in The Victoria Orphanage. The youngest child, one-year-old Janet went to live with her aunt, Eliza Wilson, at Rocky Point near Victoria.

As a teenager Janet moved to Ladysmith where she married Lawrence Cloke and had a family. In 1993 Mrs Cloke still lived in Ladysmith (age 84 at that time) and was thought to be the oldest surviving member of the Biggs family.

HENRY BIGGS, one of the few children mentioned in the HBC Memoranda, was born at 3 a.m. on June 1st 1856. He went into the mines at an early age and worked on the cattle ranch in the busy times. In 1880 he married Nova Scotia born Catherine Munro at her home in East Wellington. She and Henry bought a farm at Big Lake, the local name for Brannen Lake in Wellington. Here they raised their large family of boys who were born in Nanaimo between 1881 and 1899. It must have pleased Catherine when two girls arrived, **Ivy Henrietta** in 1902 and **Olive Catherine Kastard** in 1905.



Henry studied towards obtaining a miners certificate. Examinations were given regularly. Requirements for mining competency certificates were strict. Five years experience in a mine was necessary and the miners had to know about the practical workings of a mine. The minimum age for certification was 23. A firelighters certificate and a first aid certificate also had to be completed.

Henry received his 3rd class certificate in March 1905. He continued to encourage his sons to become trained miners. Jack, the eldest, got his 2nd class certificate in 1910.¹⁶ Early in 1911 Henry became ill and refused to enter the hospital. He died on March 20th 1911, at age 55. Of the six boys in their family, three; **Harry "Tal"**, **Herschel** and **James** were prominent baseball players. In 1923 their team won the J.J. Grant Cup donated by the manager of the Lantzville Mine for competition among the town teams.

Probably the most photographed of the brothers was Herschel who lived to be 96, and was a regular attendee at the *Princess Royal* Day observances until his death in 1989. He had fought with the Victoria Fusiliers at Vimy Ridge and survived being gassed in the war. Herschel was a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Mount Benson Branch.

Many descendants of this branch of the family are present at the Bastion each November 27th. James' granddaughter Diana Ward, the great-great granddaughter of John and Jane made history when she married James Fayle in the Bastion in March 1987. Her mother Berniece was also part of a history making trio when, in 1949, the May Queen and her attendants were all descended from *Princess Royal* families. The other members of the court were Gertrude Elliot (John Meakin family) and Pauline Parkin (John Malpass family).

MARIA, the third child of John and Jane Biggs was born in 1857. At five she began to attend Cornelius Bryant's school but he sent her home because he felt she was too young. Sarah Jane and Henry were on his school register. Bryant complained that Sarah Jane was ready to pass on to a higher reading level but the Biggs' had not purchased the required book for her progress. Herschel, Henry's son, used to tell a story, with



*Diana and James
Fayle "Bastion
Wedding Bells"
14 March 1987
NCA, Nanaimo Daily
News Fonds 2001
061 A-N 497*

a twinkle in his eye, that his dad wore shoes to school while the Dunsmuir boys, James and Alexander, went barefoot.

On December 24th 1876, Maria married widower Edward Quennel and became stepmother to his three children, **Catherine**, **James** and baby **Ann**. Their mother Julia Sophia Wilcox had died of typhoid fever.

Edward and Maria had a number of children, though not all lived to maturity, but many descendants are still in the area from both parts of the family. Edward had come to Nanaimo in 1864 and later purchased a 425 acre ranch at Quennel Lake. It was on this ranch and at the Biggs farm that many of the well-remembered family gatherings took place. There were often so many children that there had to be a second sitting at mealtimes.

Cattle from the ranch were utilized in the butcher shop he opened in 1874 with Frank Veale. The partnership was later dissolved and Edward opened other meat markets, including the Cosmopolitan on Commercial Street.

Notes:

16. British Columbia.
Minister of Mines. Reports
1905 - 1910.

Notes:

17. Graham, Donald.
Keepers of the Light,
Madeira Park: Harbour
Publishing 1985.

18. Family information and
photographs provided by
Mrs. Beryl Riches, Mrs.
Melba Tait and Mrs. Phyllis
Poirier.

Edward served his city well as alderman for eighteen years, as Mayor from 1894-1895 and for twenty years as chairman of the School Board. Quennel School, completed shortly after his death in April 1912, is fittingly named for him. Maria died a few years later on December 10th 1919.

MARY BIGGS married John Lees and they moved to Redding, California. On a visit to Nanaimo she died at the Quennel Farm in Cedar on September 4th 1893, age 33.

Of the other children **WILLIAM HENRY** went with many Nanaimo men to the Klondike in the 1890s and returned home with a fair stake of \$2,000. He married Ann Jenkins from Wales but had no children. He died on May 5th 1945.

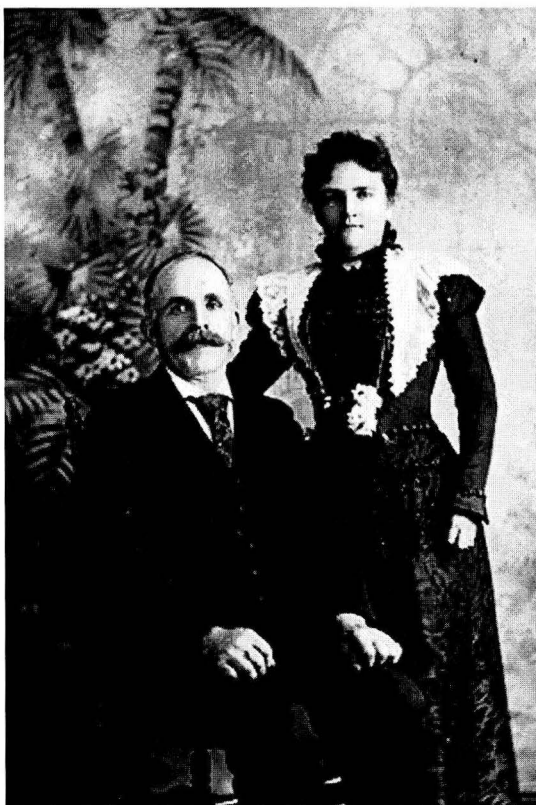
LOUISA, born about 1866, was the oldest child at home when her mother died in 1879. Her three younger sisters Elizabeth, Eliza and Ann were in her care. On December 12th 1883, Louisa married Albert Henry Meakin, son of John

and Mary Ann Meakin who had been on board the *Princess Royal* with the Biggs. They had a daughter **Ann** on September 27th 1884, and later a son **William**. Tragedy struck their household on May 3rd 1887. In Nanaimo's worst mine disaster, Louisa's brother George was killed, as were Albert's brother Arthur, his father John Sr, and their brother-in-law William Hoy. In their later years Albert and Louisa moved to Vancouver to live with their family.

The Younger Girls

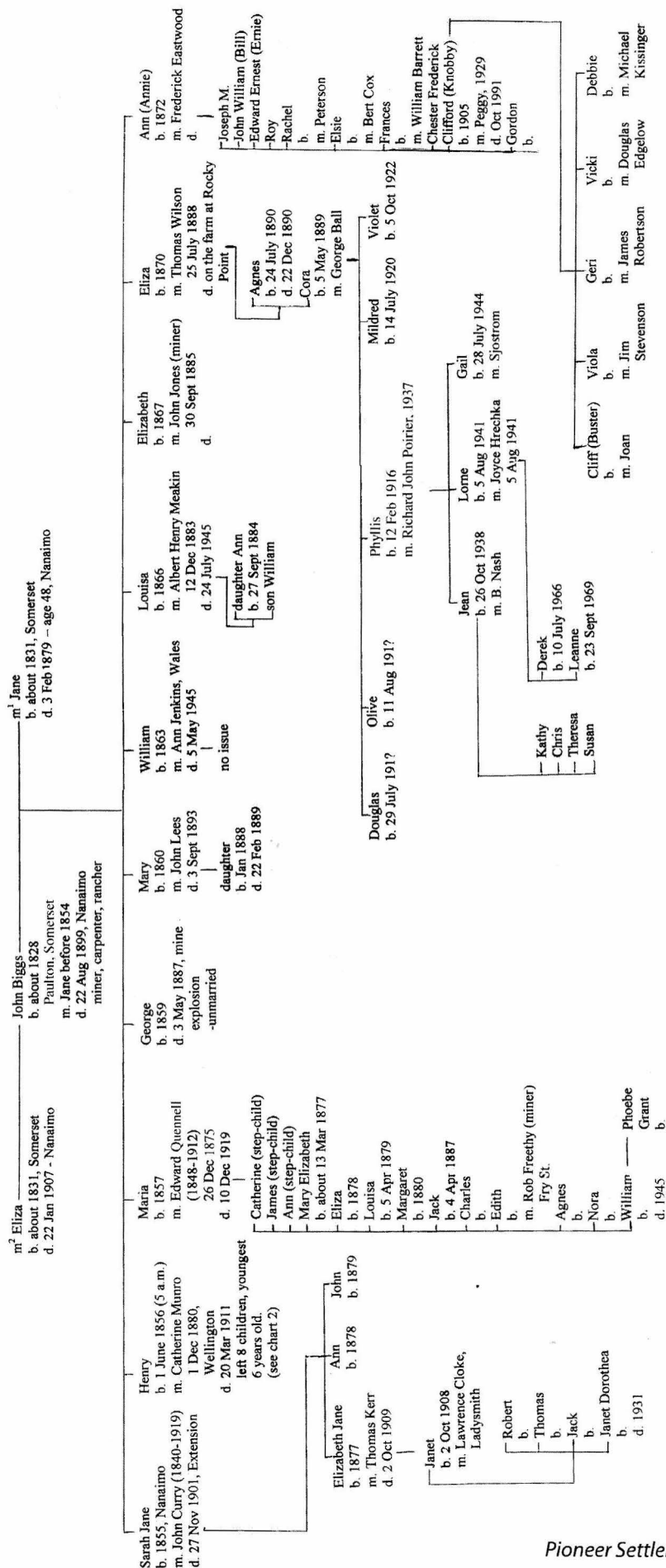
ELIZABETH was born in 1867, **ELIZA** in 1870 and **ANN** in 1872. Elizabeth married John Jones on September 30th 1885. Eliza married Thomas Wilson on July 25th 1888. The Wilsons moved about in search of work. Thomas mined at Extension then went prospecting for gold around the province. They were on Texada Island when it was becoming a lively community mining both gold and iron. After mining they bought a farm at Rocky Point not far from Eliza's sister Ann Eastwood. They had a daughter **Cora** born on May 5th 1889. Cora and her husband George Ball remained on the farm. One of their five children, Phyllis, married Richard Poirier and she and her three daughters and ten grandchildren live in Nanaimo.

Ann, the youngest daughter, married Frederick Eastwood and moved to Cumberland. In 1891 Frederick was appointed by the federal government as the keeper at Race Rocks lighthouse on Southern Vancouver Island. This was one of the most dangerous spots on the coast. The Eastwoods lived on the "Rock" until they retired to Victoria in 1919.¹⁷ Two of their daughters, **Elsie Cox** and **Frances Barrett** still live in Victoria¹⁸.



*William and Ann
Biggs
Nanaimo District
Museum, photo file
12-5*

John and Jane Biggs



© Peggy Nicholls

Volume 3

Elijah and Frances Ganner

The Ganners were not long standing Black Country residents. They settled in Kingswinford parish in the mid 1830s after moving from the small village of Caynham, Shropshire, about 30 miles away.

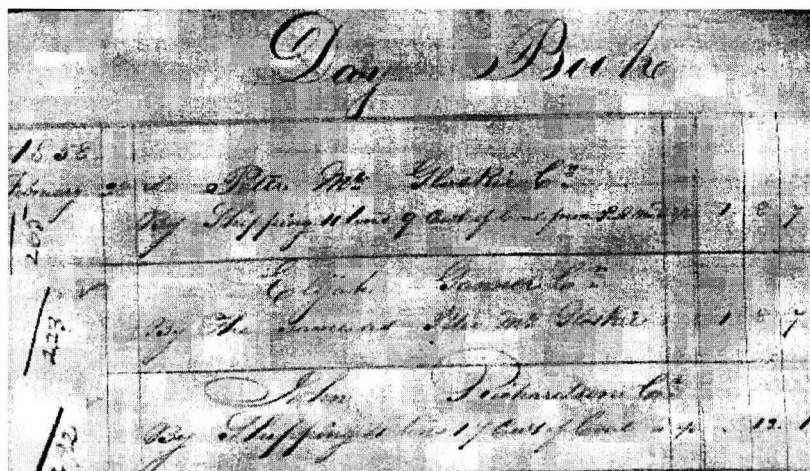
ELIJAH GANNER was born in Caynham in 1815, the youngest son of a large family. On October 31st 1836, he married **FRANCES**, daughter of Joshua and Sarah Paggett, at St. Thomas Church in Dudley.¹⁹ Paggett family records go back to 1614 in this church.

Most of the Ganner children were christened in St. Thomas Church,²⁰ Hannah on June 16th 1839, Joseph on October 16th 1842, William Henry on December 1st 1844, and Samuel on March 26th 1854. Sarah, born in 1849, and Elizabeth, born in 1852, are not on the church register. The family is not listed in the 1851 census for the Dudley area so presumably Sarah and Elizabeth were born elsewhere. Records show that they were back in the area by 1853.

Elijah was one of the last miners to be enlisted by George Robinson to come to Nanaimo, as his contract is dated May 10th 1854. Most of the other indentures were dated May 1st. In correspondence, dated May 3rd, to the HBC Secretary W. G. Smith, Robinson wrote regarding Ganner:

*"Another is very anxious to go but he has 6 children, two of them (boys) aged respectively abt 13 and 11 have worked in the mines for some two or three years, and he also offers to pay the expenses of a portion of the childrens conveyance there, say to the amount of £10. He is a stout able man and comes to me well recommended and I have no doubt from what I have ascertained respecting him that he would be one of our most useful men, as he thoroughly understands every system of mining adopted in this country ... including the stone jetting viz -- I would recommend his acceptance if the company see no other objection ... as his children when there, would be likely to cause his settlement in the Is'd."*²¹

The HBC was agreeable to Ganner's hiring and he and Frances with their 6 children, Hannah 14, Joseph 12, William 10, Sarah 5, Elijah 3 and Samuel 6 months (according to



Robinson) all sailed on the *Princess Royal*. Elijah gave a promissory note for the 10 pounds sterling required for his family's passage.²² The baby Samuel did not survive the trip. He died in Honolulu on October 27th 1854. A Hawaiian newspaper states that he was 18 months old. The ship's log records the baby's death and that of Mrs. Incher "at about the same time." A carpenter came aboard and made the coffins for the two bodies, which were buried on shore. Five men went ashore for the service.²³ It must have been some consolation to Frances to have her small son buried on land rather than seeing his canvas wrapped body go overboard as some mothers had witnessed when their children had died at sea.²⁴

Tragedy again struck the family after their arrival in Nanaimo when another boy drowned while playing on logs at the mouth of the Millstone River on the August 25th 1855.²⁵ A Northern Indian, noted for his diving ability, made several attempts to save the boy. Artificial respiration was attempted but the child did not survive. Although the boy is unnamed in the HBC Memoranda, it was the 11-year-old William Henry. His death required Nanaimo's first recorded inquest.

Elijah lived up to George Robinson's expectations for he proved to be a high coal producer as well as a coke burner. The mine Day Book records his monthly production as one of the highest among the miners.²⁶ In 1861, with Joseph

Above:
NCA HBC Fonds
Daybook 1857-1858

Notes:

19. International Genealogical Index, England, Worcester, DOW, listed under Ganner.

20. Ibid.

21. HBCA-PAM A 10/35 fos 205, letter 3 May 1854.

22. HBCA-PAM A10/35 fos 339, 12 May 1854.

23. HBCA-PAM Log of the *Princess Royal* 27 October 1854, C1/975.

24. Ibid.

25. NCA, HBC fonds, Nanaimo Memoranda 1855-1857 August 1855.

26. NCA HBC fonds Daybook 1857-1858

Notes:

27. Bate, Mark. NDFP, "Reminiscences of Early Nanaimo" 13 April 1907.

28. NCA, City of Nanaimo Corporate Administration fonds, Series 6: Council Minutes.

29. Bate, Mark. NDFP, 9 March 1907.

30. *NFP*, 31 March 1882.

31. *NDFP*, 29 August 1891.

32. *Ibid*.

Webb he opened up a level into the Douglas coal seam about two feet above high water level at the foot of today's Commercial Street.²⁷

As the family prospered they built several homes on Cavan Street. In 1887 Nanaimo's City Council instigated a city clean up. Many citizens received notes about their property. Elijah was asked to remove the ashes and his water closet from his yard.²⁸

Around town Elijah was known as a "jovial agreeable man, often entertaining as a songster."²⁹ He was listed as retired in the 1881 census, having ceased mining in the late 1870s. He died on March 29th 1882 and was buried in the Pioneer Cemetery beside his young son. His funeral was held at the late hour of five o'clock because the steamer *Pilot*

bringing his son Elijah and daughter Eliza from Victoria was delayed in a heavy storm.³⁰

Frances Paggett Ganner, who was christened on July 20th 1817, died at the Victoria home of her daughter Eliza Marshall in August 1891.³¹ Her funeral was held from the Nanaimo residence of her son Joseph. A long string of carriages followed Wallace Street to the Pioneer Cemetery where she was laid to rest beside her husband and son.³² Mark Bate, Adam Grant Horne, John Thompson, Jesse Sage, George Bevilockway and Samuel Gough were her pallbearers; all men of note in the community.

The Ganner Descendants

HANNAH, or "Anna", as George Robinson calls her, had her 15th birthday on board ship. Methodist Church Sunday school records of 1859 show her as a teacher and still "Miss Ganner". Sometime soon after she married French Canadian axe man Leon Labine. Not long after their marriage they moved to Victoria. Several children were born to them.

JOSEPH became one of the most progressive men in Nanaimo's early history. He married Dorothy Preston who had been born in Blackburn, Lancashire, in 1845. She came to Nanaimo with her family on the steamer *Robert Lowe* in January 1863 and in that year married Joseph. He mined until 1870 when he began a transfer business, starting with a horse and dump cart to haul coal. By 1874 he had a regular business advertisement in the Nanaimo Free Press. The first machinery installed in the paper was one of his many hauling jobs.



On March 23rd 1876, at 2 o'clock, Nanaimo experienced the worst gale in its known history. Returning from Wellington, Joseph and his son William reached the area of today's Beban Park, when a large tree was blown down about 20 yards in front of their horses. Before it could be cut away, trees were falling all around allowing them no means of escape. The gale lasted until 5 o'clock during which time they dodged trees, unhitched their horses and abandoned the wagon. It took them several hours to get home. The gale destroyed many small homes and caused considerable damage to others.



The Ganners, for Joseph's sons joined him as teamsters, carried mail gratuitously between Nanaimo and Wellington until 1878 when a post office was established at Wellington. They then had a government contract to carry the mail.³³

They had the first covered moving van on Vancouver Island. Their wagons were often volunteered for community services such as hauling all the picnic baskets for special outings and moving the Methodist church organ to indoor and outdoor social activities. The Ganners operated the stagecoach until the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway was completed as far as Wellington in 1889. William delighted in telling his grandchildren about one trip when he was ambushed in the area known as the "Northfield Prairie". The thieves missed the Wellington Mine payroll as he had it well hidden.

Joseph raised horses for sale, charging \$40 each or \$70 for a pair. He paid special city taxes to own his teams. The family had houses to rent and rooms for \$2 a month.

In 1883 Joseph's health began to fail and he sold off some of his property. He advertised a 16 passenger stagecoach, 158 acres in the Cranberry District and a large lot on Vancouver Avenue, Newcastle Townsite for sale. In 1888 he travelled to Banff Springs to recuperate from asthma. He obviously made some recovery for in June 1891, he travelled to Victoria and hired the *S.S. Yosemite* to take the Black Diamond Oddfellows Lodge on an excursion to Vancouver. He was a charter member of the Lodge.³⁴ After a very lengthy illness he died on December 26th 1903.

Above: ad in
Nanaimo Free Press
24 March, 1878

Left: ad in
Nanaimo Free Press

Notes:

33. *NFP*, 24 March 1878.

34. *NDFP*, June 1891.

Notes:

35. *NDFP*, 2 January 1904.

36. Government of Canada, 1881 Census, Nanaimo.

37. Nanaimo Cemetery Records.

His wife Dorathy, saddened and ill from tending her husband died two days later. They were buried together on December 31st with all the City Council in attendance.³⁵ Joseph had been an Alderman several times.

The Joseph Ganners had a large family, said to number ten, **Margaret Ann** was the oldest, born in 1864. She was a good student, often topping her class. After finishing school she became a dressmaker.³⁶ On May 28th 1887, she married businessman Angus David McKenzie. Angus had worked for Nanaimo city but after the fire of 1886 in Vancouver he saw good business opportunities in the rebuilding of the city. In later life they returned to Nanaimo where Angus became superintendent of roads. They had no children but raised Gladys Lewis (Calderhead) her sister's child. Margaret Ann died in Nanaimo on May 1st 1953, aged 90 and Cape Bretoner Angus died on November 17th 1932, aged 69.³⁷

William Henry, named for the uncle who drowned, was born in 1866. At age 10 he began helping his father with postal delivery and at 15 joined him full time. He worked for the Postal Department for 67 years resigning on October 1st 1945, with a commendation from the Federal Government. He worked seven days a week, often delivering on Christmas Day. His four granddaughters, who remember helping with deliveries, say that he received 10¢ a parcel for this service.

William married English born Mercy Bull on December 20th 1894. She died in July 1935 age 72 and William died at Ganges on May 19th 1957 age 91.

Their only child William Henry Jr., known as "Harry", was born on January 18th 1899. He joined his father in the work, making 77 years for the Ganner name in the postal services. Harry never called his father "Dad" but always referred to him as "Boss". Harry married nurses-aide Doris Irene Fox, daughter of William and Jane Fox. She was born at Departure Bay on February 3rd 1902.

He and Doris had four daughters, Dorathy, who married John Chase, Marjorie who married contractor Robert Jeffs, Muriel, who married Ray Simpson and Gertrude who became Mrs. Donald Parker.

The Chases, Jeffs and Simpsons all celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries within a year. The Chases in July 1993, just a month before John passed away; the Simpsons in August 1993 and the Jeffs in June 1994. The Jeffs children had a bench placed on the sea-wall-walkway to honour their parents. It sits in view of the Nanaimo Civic Arena where they worked and courted. All three couples served on many different mining and centennial committees. The families have been active members of the Native Daughters and Native Sons of B.C. Gertrude Parker moved to the prairies but has recently

*Left: Dorathy and John Chase
Held by Family*



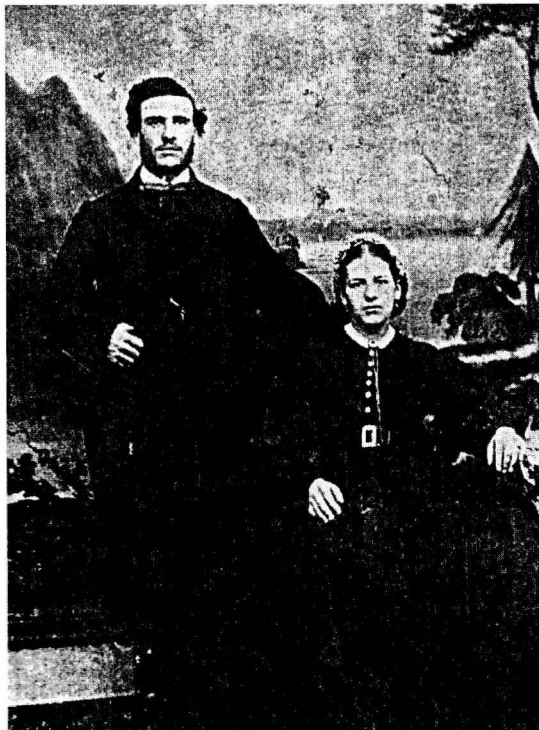
*Right: Marjorie and Robert Jeffs
Held by Family*



returned to Nanaimo. She is active in the Ladies of the Royal Purple.

The Simpson children have an historical background on Vancouver Island that pre-dates the *Princess Royal*. In 1852 Henry Simpson and his wife sailed for Victoria on *Norman Morison*. The voyage from England was a particularly bad one. The ship struggled through storm winds, heavy seas, even a hurricane. It sailed into Victoria, January 16th 1853 in a blinding snowstorm.³⁸ Preferring to stay above ground, Henry farmed. He built a hotel in Saanich, The Prairie Inn, a very early hostelry outside Victoria. He had a hack horse service, and operated a stagecoach to Victoria. He also carried the mail, which his daughter delivered after school. Another great-grandfather, Henry Wain of Kent, came to Victoria as a carpenter for the HBC in 1850. He also operated a tavern, ran the first North Saanich Post Office and operated a stagecoach. The parallel lives of these families has generated many stories of the early days of Vancouver Island.

Harry died in Vancouver on March 28th 1957, asphyxiated in a hotel fire. Doris died on January 17th 1965.



Dorathy Preston,

Joseph's second daughter was known as Dora. She, with her sisters, often performed at Methodist Church concerts. In 1881 she is listed as a 13 year old student. She married Ontario born James Lewis and became sister-in-law to Nanaimo's long lived "Billy" Lewis. She had three children; Gladys born May 3rd 1887, then Richard and lastly Theresa, "Tessie". Gladys married Thomas Calderhead and in later years she and Doris Fox Ganner nursed and acted as companions for their uncle who lived to be 104. Doris died in 1966.

Frances Eliza was born about 1870. In 1882 she received the good behaviour award from the Nanaimo Girl's School. In 1884 she was chosen to be Nanaimo's May Queen. On June 15th 1892, she married Frank Parks for whose family Parksville had been named. For a time Frank was road foreman for the outlying district. He ran a hotel on Victoria Crescent. The family moved to Cumberland and then to Victoria. They had two sons, Herbert and Preston and three daughters, Hazel, Gladys and Charlotte. Herbert became a miner in Nanaimo and Preston a pharmacist.

Of their three other children **Christopher**, born on May 2nd 1874, was a teamster. He moved to Cumberland and then to Los Angeles after his parents died. **Jessie**, born about 1876, looked after her parents until their deaths in 1903. She then married a Mr. Waite and moved to Vancouver. **Charlotte**, "Lottie", was born about 1880, and married William R. "Boxer" Brown. They had a son, Clifford. She later married Henry Reece and had two daughters who are still alive in Seattle, Mrs. Hugspen and Mrs. Engelke



Above: Muriel Simpson, Coal Miners Reunion 1991, NFP photo: Mark Brett

Left: Mr and Mrs Joseph Ganner, NDM, Bastion Collection

Notes:

38. Mouat, A.N. Notes on the *Norman Morison*, B.C. Historical Quarterly, Vol.3, No.3

Notes:

39. *Colonist*, 25 October 1934.

40. *NFP*, 11 January 1878.

41. *NDFP*, 23 February 1884, p.3.

42. NCA. Nanaimo Historical Society fonds. Series 5: Centennial Project British Columbia Historical Association, Nanaimo Section Register of Residents of Nanaimo and District prior to 1908 and their Descendants Centennial Year.

SARAH was five years old aboard the *Princess Royal*. In Nanaimo she attended the first colonial school. Around 1863, probably aged about 16, she married Welsh miner Richard Brinn. Richard became involved in politics and was on Nanaimo City Council from 1874-1886.

In 1886 the family moved to Victoria as Richard was appointed lighthouse keeper for Douglas Island outside Victoria harbour. He continued in this job until his death in 1904. **Mary Ann Brinn**, Sarah's oldest daughter married William Croft and they continued as lighthouse keepers until they retired in 1934. She was the only woman lighthouse keeper in Canada. On October 25th of that year Mary Ann was awarded the Imperial Service Medal. His Honour, Lt. Governor Fordham Johnstone said:

*"I have asked you to come to Government House to lend the dignity of your presence to a small ceremony, which has been arranged to pay homage to a most meritorious citizen. Most of us at times have had the occasion to travel at night along the British Columbia coast. As darkness falls, our thoughts instinctively turn to those lonely and faithful servants who lighted those Beacons which are needed for safe navigation of ships and safety of the public. ... His Majesty King George, recognizes the ... splendid work and is graciously pleased to award you the Imperial Service Medal."*³⁹

Other Brinn children were a son, **William**, born in 1864, who died in 1874, and **Sarah Jane**, born about 1867, who married Oliver Godwin the owner of the Victoria Piano Company. When Oliver died Sarah Jane returned to Nanaimo. In 1926 she married Robert McGarrigle in Riverside, California.

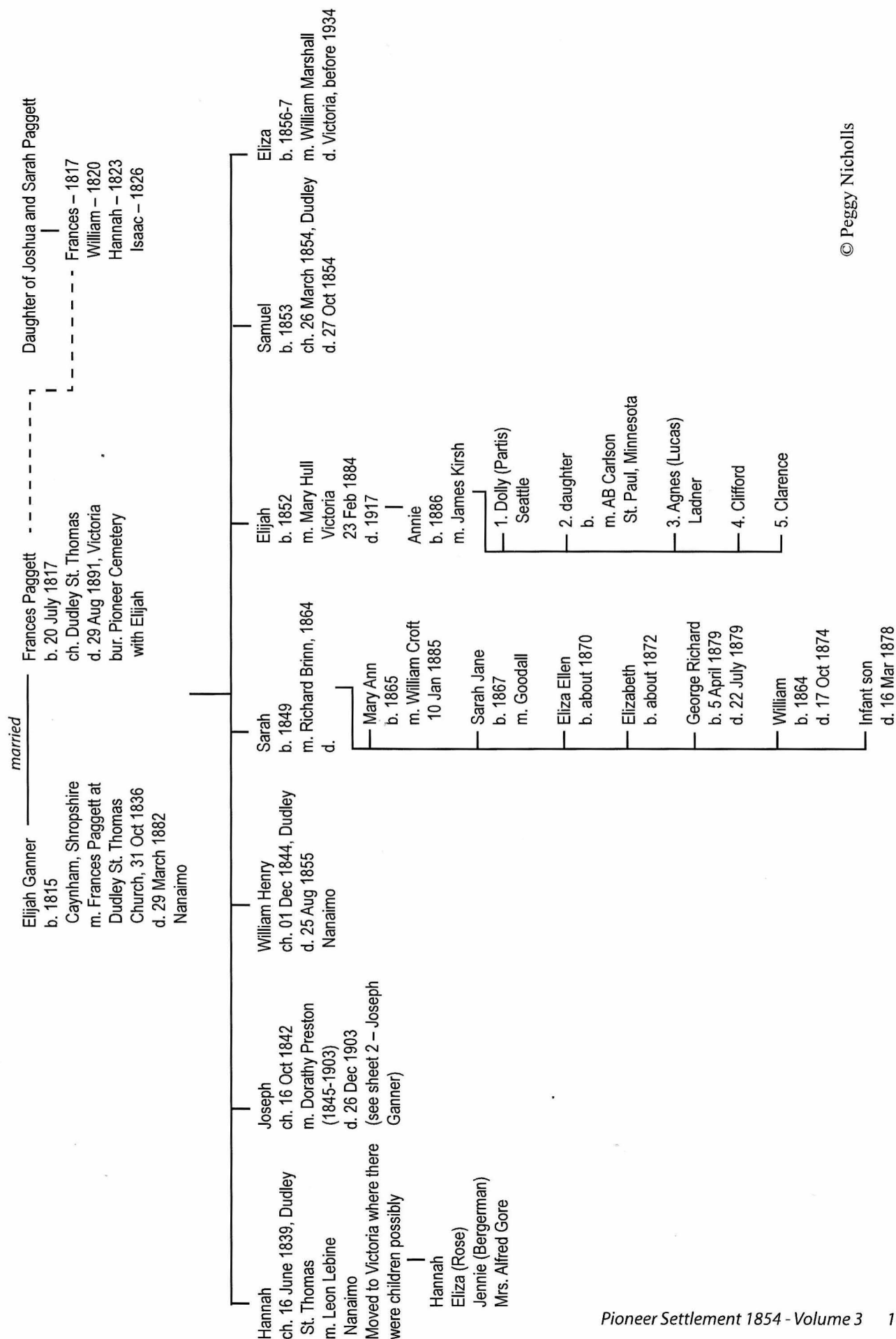
ELIJAH GANNER JR. born in 1851 was the only child living with his parents in 1881. In 1878 he was operating the Telegraph Hotel on Cavan Street.⁴⁰ He applied to the city for a liquor licence but was refused because licences were too numerous and no more were to be issued within the city limits. He is also listed as a teamster. Later he moved to the Wheatsheaf Inn, in Cedar.

On February 18th 1884, Elijah married Mary Hull of Ohio, a niece of his sister Eliza's husband.⁴¹ They settled in Victoria where they ran a dairy farm. Their son **Clarence** went to Craigflower School, now a heritage building. Mary died in 1917.

ELIZA was born in Nanaimo about 1857. She married American William Marshall and together they ran the popular Gorge Hotel in Victoria.

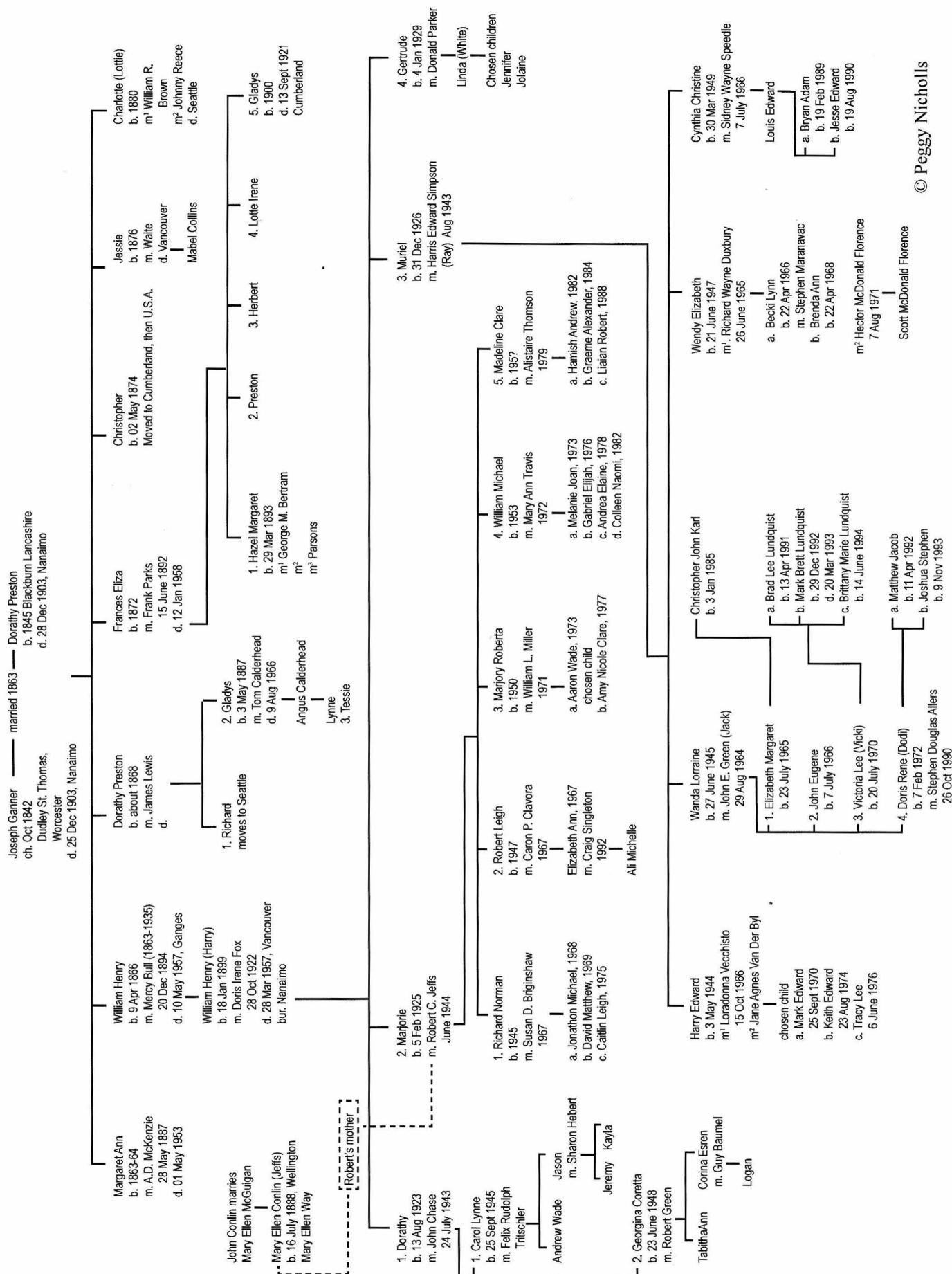
ANN. No early records of Ann have been found. She is listed as Elijah Sr.'s daughter in the 1954 Anniversary list as Mrs. James Kirch, with three daughters.⁴²

Elijah and Frances Ganner



© Peggy Nicholls

Joseph and Dorothy Ganner Sheet 2



Richard and Elizabeth Richardson

RICHARD RICHARDSON and his wife **ELIZABETH** were one of the older couples aboard the *Princess Royal*. George Robinson who recruited the miners for the HBC lists them both as 33. They were accompanied by two-year-old Mary. In 1854 they were resident in Dudley, but were originally from the coal mining area of Camerton and Dunkerton near Bath in Somerset. Richard was the sixth child of Peter Richardson and Hannah Wiltshire and was baptized on July 20th 1817, which makes him several years older than the age that he gave Robinson.⁴³

On August 5th 1837, he married Elizabeth Durham.⁴⁴ On their marriage certificate they are both listed as minors. In the 1841 census for Camerton he and Elizabeth and their two-year-old daughter, Tamar Hannah, lived in Whitebrook Lane. He was a miner. Elizabeth Durham Richardson died on April 10th 1842, age 23,⁴⁵ perhaps in childbirth.

Sometime between 1842 and 1850 Richard married another Elizabeth. Their daughter **MARY** was born in 1852. She died at sea in her mother's arms on the "13th of November, 1854 at 5 hrs and 30 min," and was buried at sea at "3 hrs and 30 min"⁴⁶ a mere 10 hours later.

On arrival in Nanaimo the Richardsons lived in a small house on the bank of today's Front Street. Later they lived in one of three cabins, known as the Richardson cabins, on Haliburton Street. They were next door to Mark Bate's office for the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company (VCMLC). In the September 1863 company accounts, Richardson received an advance in wages and in November of the same year another advance of \$100 for additional improvements to his house.

In late 1856 or early 1857 Richard made a trip to the west side of Vancouver Island with Adam Grant Horne, travelling over what became known as the Horne Lake Trail. Richard spotted an outcropping of ore, which proved to be a combination of iron and copper with a facing of rich brass colour. He took off his hat and covered what he thought was a real find declaring: "I'm the discoverer, it's all mine." He was not the first miner to have been deceived by "fools gold".⁴⁷

Still hoping for a gold claim, Richard joined the Fraser River gold rush in 1858. After a short time, he returned nattily dressed, boasting that he would be going back to England. He walked around Nanaimo assuming airs of someone who had suddenly become rich. It turned out that his riches were a small sack of about four ounces of gold that he had obtained from the sale of the equipment that he had taken to the gold fields.⁴⁸ Bate said that in spite of these two incidents he was often a good Samaritan and had many commendable traits of character.⁴⁹

In 1875 he went to the Alberni Valley for a mining company. Here, he found a well-defined outcrop of coal on the banks of a small creek at the foot of today's Argyle Street in Port Alberni. As this was not his personal exploration his findings were turned over to the company. Continuing exploration work with his brother Abraham John Richardson, they proposed to the managers of the Nanaimo Colliery (VCMLC) that they look for an outcrop of coal at what became known as the Southfield area. Several excursions had previously been made to the area. They uncovered a large seam, and shortly after the Southfield Mine was opened. The two brothers and their sons also worked their own mine close by, known as the Richardson Mine.⁵⁰

Little is known about Elizabeth, other than she was born in Bath, Somerset. In her later years she was an invalid and appeared to be a sad woman. She died at her home on December 16th 1891, age 84.⁵¹ It was her wish that she be buried in the old Wallace Street Cemetery by the side of her child, who had died very young. However, the cemetery committee decided that there was no room to accommodate a new grave and she was buried in the Comox Road Cemetery. No record has been found of the birth or death of this child. It must have been soon after their arrival for the child does not appear in any school or Sunday school records. Richard died on April 24th 1895.⁵²

Notes:

43. Parish of Camerton, Church Records. Somerset Record Office, Bath.

44. Ibid.

45. Ibid.

46. HBCA-PAM Log of the *Princess Royal*, 13 November 1854. C1/975.

47. Bate, Mark. *NDFP* "Reminiscences of Early Nanaimo" 20 April 1907.

48. Ibid. 16 March 1907.

49. Ibid.

50. The explorations were reported in the *NFP* in the early 1880s. See map: Leynard, A., Map of Nanaimo Coal Fields (back inside cover).

51. *NFP*, 17 December 1891, p.4.

52. *NDFP*, 24 April 1895, p.4. *British Colonist* 26 April 1895, page 2.

The Richard Richardson Descendants

Notes:

53. Somerset County Council. Philip Hocking, 1 February 1995 "Beauchamp" in Canada.

54. *Daily British Colonist*, 5 February 1862. Marine Intelligence.

55. *NDFP*, 1924 Special Edition.

56. *NFP*, 5 July 1882.

57. Nanaimo Cemetery Records.

58. *NFP*, 6 June 1877.

59. Beauchamp birth dates from Robert Douglas of Victoria. Dorothy Beckensell of Seattle, a great granddaughter of Richard Richardson and a keen family genealogist, provided helpful information.

60. *Ibid*.

Richard's oldest daughter **TAMAR** (sometimes Tamer) was born on the Coronation Day of Queen Victoria, and baptized on July 21st 1839, with her father Richard sponsoring her. It is possible that after her mother's death she was brought up in Camerton by another family member, for on May 23rd 1858, she married Robert Beacham.⁵³ Their oldest daughter Alice Hannah, one of nine children, was born on August 9th 1859 in Camerton.

Tamar, with Robert and their small daughter, embarked on a later voyage of the *Princess Royal* to join her pioneering father in Nanaimo. They docked in Victoria on February 4th 1862.⁵⁴ In the new country their family grew. Alice Hannah was married on May 19th 1874, to Thomas Beckensell. In Mark Bate's description of Nanaimo, 1874, naming the residents of Franklyn Street he wrote, "Tom Beckensell went into the bush, nearly as far as today's Milton Street and built a home."⁵⁵ Tom mined, farmed and acted as Constable in Comox in the mid 1880s.

Tamar's first child born in Nanaimo was **Daniel**, on February 14th 1862, just days after their arrival. "Residence of John Fear - 4th of July, 1882. Daniel Beauchamp of Wellington married to Miss Eliza Bruce of New Westminster, New Westminster papers please copy."⁵⁶ This couple had three children.

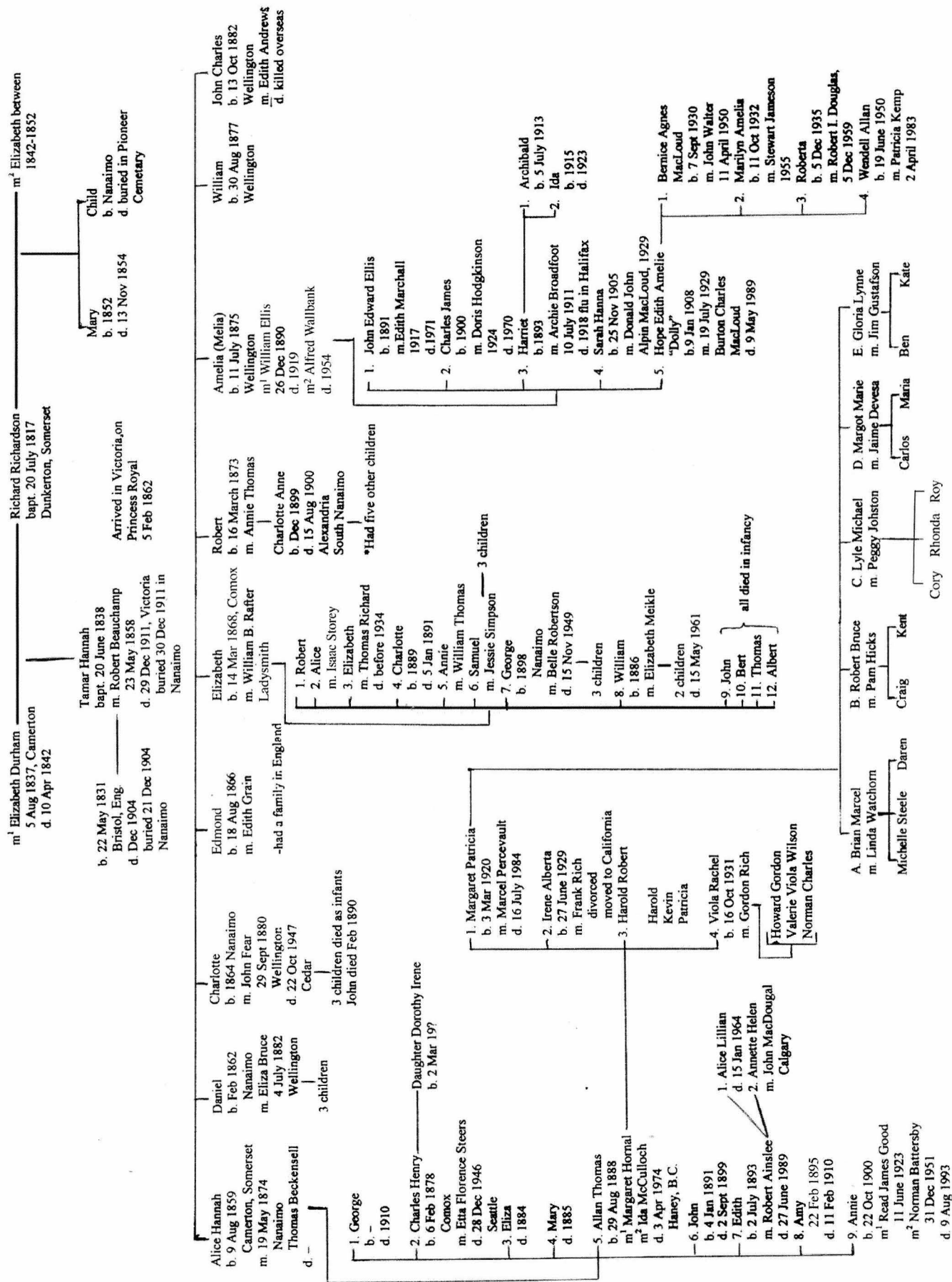
The next child was **Charlotte**, born on June 19th 1864. She had married John Fear, a family

acquaintance from Somerset on September 28th 1880. In 1879 John began the Somerset Hotel, a well-known Wellington landmark. He circulated a petition among the Wellington people to get approval for a liquor license and on June 15th 1880, he got the license. It was a short marriage for John died on February 13th 1890, in Wellington. Charlotte died on October 22nd 1947, at Cedar.⁵⁷

Tamar and Robert farmed at Waterloo, south of Nanaimo adjoining the Haslam farm. Probably farming did not prove profitable for he came back to the mines in Nanaimo, and then moved to a farm at Comox. Here **Edmond** was born on August 18th 1866, **Elizabeth** on March 14th 1868, and **Robert** on March 16th 1873. Back to another farm in Wellington from where he returned to the mines. His salary for January 1877 was \$86.75 for 25 days work.⁵⁸ The cost of powder and oil had already been deducted from this amount. He also received a free ton of coal.

Three more children were born in Wellington, **Amelia** born on July 11th 1875, **William** on August 30th 1877, and **John Charles** on October 13th 1882.⁵⁹ Charles was killed overseas on September 3rd 1918. Tamar and Robert returned to Somerset, England in 1890. However, in 1898 they again came to a farm in South Wellington. Robert died on December 21st 1904, and Tamar was buried beside him in the Nanaimo Cemetery on December 30th 1911.⁶⁰

Richard and Elizabeth Richardson



John and Seadonah Richardson

Notes:

61. Somerset County Council. Correspondence with Philip Hocking, 4 January 1995.

62. IGI, England, Staffordshire, listed under Pearson.

63. BCARS Nanaimo School District, Cornelius Bryant Register of Attendance, Nanaimo "Colonial" School 1862-1866 GR 2070 file 1K

64. *NFP*, during June 1882. See map: Leynard, A., Map of Nanaimo Coal Fields (inside back cover)

65. *NFP*, 10 May 1883.

John and Seadonah Richardson, NDM photo file 12-59

ABRAHAM JOHN RICHARDSON, known as "John", was Richard's younger brother. There is a controversy over his birth date. A family Bible and other records date it to be August 2nd 1833, whereas the church baptismal record says August 27th 1826,⁶¹ at least the month is correct. It is possible that a second child was named Abraham John after the death of the first, however no record could be found by the local researcher. There are only 109 Richardson entries in the International Genealogical Index between the years 1628-1844 for the whole of Somerset. In John's early childhood he lived in the towns of Camerton and Dunkerton.

There is no indication as to when he moved north. The first record was his marriage to **SEADONAH** Pearson in Kingswinford on December 29th 1852. Seadonah was born in Netherton, Staffordshire, on August 22nd 1833.⁶² This date seems correct as George Robinson lists her as 21. Their daughter Hester (Esther) Ann was born on March 18th 1853. Their next child, Benjamin was born on January 8th 1855, in Nanaimo, a month and a half after their arrival on the *Princess Royal*. This refutes many older newspaper accounts of the family, which state that



they arrived with two or three children. Four more sons and a daughter were born to them later.

They spent their first years in a home on Front Street, but John soon built a house on Wallace Street. John was the second of the Staffordshire men to lose his wife, for Seadonah died on April 5th 1869, and was buried in the Pioneer Cemetery. John took up land in the Cranberry District, gaining title in 1873. He and his boys worked hard clearing a number of acres to farm and to build a comfortable home.

In between these times they must have lived some way out of town, for the Colonial School records of 1862 say that Benjamin, Esther and Andrew Richardson were kept at home during the winter as they had so far to walk, especially during the weeks beginning December 14th as it was getting too dark for small children to be out. A son George was added to the school roll in 1864.⁶³

John and his brother was very experienced miners and were exploring for coal and contracting their monthly output to the coal company. They spent many weeks exploring the outcroppings of a large seam of coal midway between Nanaimo and Chase River for the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company. This coal proved to be clean and extremely hard. Experts pronounced it to be the same class and quality as the Wellington seam. It became known as the Southfield.⁶⁴

During the exploration period John retained his home on Wallace Street, leaving the boys on the farm. There were the usual farm problems, marauding bears, theft of produce and injuries. John shot a bear that tipped 300 lbs.⁶⁵ In mid July 1887 they had a number of sheep stolen. Previously this advertisement ran in the Nanaimo Free Press:

"\$10 reward to any persons who will give information as to the parties taking eggs or wheat and breaking doors at either of our farms. John and Ben Richardson."

Benjamin had a frightening experience when he was bitten on the thumb by a venomous insect, thought to be a spider. In a few hours he "was wildly delirious" and it required four strong men to keep him from "tearing the flesh off his body." He recovered.

After John's death on January 2nd 1900, the boys continued to run the farm and work the Richardson mine. However the following appeared in the Nanaimo Free Press on October 13th 1907:

"Coal rights of the Richardson Property of South Wellington were tied up by the will of the late Mr. Richardson. Mr. Richardson had written the will in such a way that his heirs could not dispose of the coal rights. The land

had been leased adjacent to the boundaries of the abandoned Alexandria Mine."

The problem must have been solved for on April 21st 1908, the press reported:

"South Wellington coal mines and the Richardson property have been purchased by a newly formed syndicate for 3 million dollars. Several business men from Nanaimo are members of the syndicate."



*Seadonah and Esther
Anne Richardson
1854. NDM*

The John Richardson Descendants

Notes:

66. Bible held by family.

67. BCARS Nanaimo School District, Cornelius Bryant Register of Attendance, Nanaimo "Colonial" School 1862-1866 GR 2070 file 1K.

68. Nickel, John P. St. Andrews Presbyterian Church History - 125 Anniversary Edition 1865-1990.

69. Ibid.

70. Family memories.

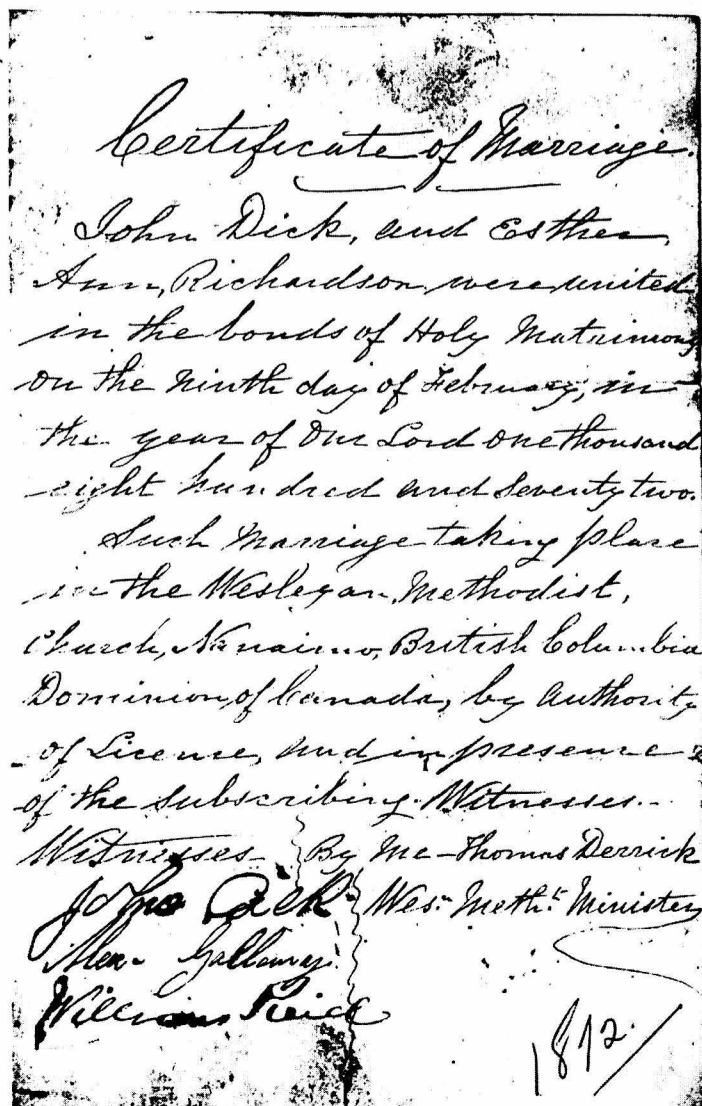
ESTHER ANN, born on March 18th 1853,⁶⁶ named for her grandmother Esther Wiltshire Richardson, was the only child of Abraham John to be born in England. She was one of about 10 children under 2 years old that toddled around in the cramped steerage quarters of the *Princess Royal*. In 1864 when she was 11 she was the oldest child on the Colonial School register.⁶⁷ Her older shipboard companions were already down the mines or at home caring for younger children.

In 1872 at the age of 19 she married Presbyterian John Dick who was twice her age.

The service took place in the Wesleyan Methodist Church because Saint Andrew's Presbyterian was without a resident minister for five years between 1870 and 1875.⁶⁸ The Dicks were closely associated with Saint Andrew's during their lifetime. Alexander Galloway, son of John's sister Sarah was the first child baptized there and at the first Communion of 17 members, 8 were from the Dick family and four were from the Robert Dunsmuir family.⁶⁹ The Dick children remembered their mother Esther being strict about church attendance. Every Saturday all the shoes in the house had to be cleaned on a bench on their back porch and were left there until church time on Sunday morning. They also remembered their "front parlour" was kept for visitors and special Sunday occasions. The furniture was black velour trimmed with red velvet, and an elaborate crystal chandelier was centred over a round marble top table. A large mirror over the fireplace reached the ceiling and the windows were curtained with lace.⁷⁰ It was a typical Nanaimo parlour of a well-to-do family.

John was away a lot exploring for coal but he still maintained a large garden with fruit trees. A pigsty was at the bottom of the garden. The children played and swam in the Millstone. Some restrictions were put on this when one of their swimming companions drowned and was swept out to sea never to be found. In the spring they picked curly lilies for their mother and in the summer wild berries for pies and jam. At their father's insistence Esther cooked oatmeal for breakfast every morning. The children could have nothing else until it was finished. John was a stern but kind father but not beyond giving a spanking for misbehaviour.

It was John Dick's ambition and industry that kept the family in prosperous circumstances. He was born in the Parish of Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, in 1831 to James Dick and Sarah Muir. He worked with his father and brothers in a coal mine in the small village of Dreghorn, within two or three miles of Robert Dunsmuir's father's small mines. One can wonder if their fathers were acquainted. Robert and John worked and socialized together in Nanaimo.



Marriage Certificate of John Dick and Esther Ann Richardson, 1872
Held by Family



*Far Left: John Dick
Held by Family*



*Left: Esther Ann Dick
(née Richardson)
Held by Family*

By age 25 John was well acquainted with mines. He left for America travelling through Pennsylvania to California and from there to Victoria where he boarded another boat for Nanaimo. He was first hired to do exploratory work on Burrard Inlet (later Vancouver). Returning to Nanaimo he worked at the Douglas Shaft. He felt no challenge in this so he left for exploration in the Cariboo where he stayed for a few years.

He had returned to Nanaimo before 1865 partly because his father and mother, sisters Jane Fulton, Sarah Galloway and Isabella Reid and brother Alexander (later B.C. Inspector of Mines) had all come from Scotland. In 1877 his mother Sarah Muir Dick was the first person buried in the new Comox Road cemetery.⁷¹

On his return John had begun to work with Robert Dunsmuir and James Hamilton on outcroppings beyond the Vancouver Coal Company's jurisdiction. In 1878 he took an examination, which awarded him a coalmine management certificate. William Bulkley hired him to be in charge of the Harewood Mine where he supervised the building of the aerial tramway from the mine to the Nanaimo harbour.

His explorations continued on the old Sabiston estate. Frequent articles appeared in the

local press relating to his exploration: "John Dick as superintendent of operations of the Millstone Valley mine" noted the existence of an excellent seam of coal "It is especially his skill, practical knowledge and energy that this mine has been successfully prospected."⁷² This mine became known as the Jingle Pot.

John also found coal at Comox and Cape Scott and in 1885 he opened the Alexandria Mine.⁷³ The family lived at the small village of Alexandria that grew up around the mine as well as at their Wallace Street home.

The late 1890s were a bad time for the family. John lost two sisters: Isabella Reid died in 1895 and Sarah Galloway in 1898.⁷⁴ Esther Ann Dick died in Alexandria on November 7th 1899, after a very short illness. Her remains were brought to Nanaimo on a special train⁷⁵ and the funeral procession went directly to the cemetery. John had suffered a stroke and had retired from mining. He recovered somewhat, for in 1901 he was managing his son-in-law's shoe factory. He died on March 26th 1902. His obituary in the Nanaimo Daily Free Press states: "John Dick was one of British Columbia's greatest prospectors, and belonged to a class to which a province rich in mineral resources owes so much."⁷⁶

Notes:

71. Nanaimo Cemetery Records.

72. *NFP*, 1880.

73. See map: Leynard, A., Map of Nanaimo Coal Fields (inside back cover)

74. Nanaimo Cemetery Records.

75. *NDFP*, 8 November 1899.

76. *NDFP*, March 1902.

Notes:

77. NFP, January 1875.

78. NFP, 11 January 1876.

79. NFP, 15 May 1886.

80. Bible held by family.

81. Nanaimo Cemetery Records.

John's working life was so active that he was not much in the public eye. However, he and his brother Archibald were founding members of the Nanaimo Caledonian Society, an association that served men with Scottish ancestry. In 1874 his friend James Hamilton proposed that he run for the newly formed city council. He won a seat on the first city council and retained it for many years.⁷⁷

John and Esther Ann's first child was born in December 1875 and died on January 10th 1876. The funeral was from the parent's residence near the sawmill between Wallace and Prideaux.⁷⁸ Their second child **Archibald John** was born the same year and lived to be 10 years old, dying on May 14th 1886.⁷⁹ **Abraham John** was born on November 23rd 1877.⁸⁰ He married Harriet Harris. They had three children, Florence (Buchanan), Thelma (Anderson) and John.

Next came the first girl, **Sarah Seadonah**, named for her two grandmothers. She was born in Wellington on August 5th 1879. She married John A. Thurston who built the Nanaimo Shoe Factory. Shoes were retailed in Nanaimo and Vancouver.

The family moved to Vancouver and Mr. Thurston and his boys were associated with Leckie Brothers Shoe Company. In 1902 the Thurston's built a fine home in Central Park, Burnaby. Wood from all over the world was used in its construction. It is now being restored as a Heritage House.

This advertisement appeared in the Nanaimo papers on a regular basis in 1900.

The Dick's had another son born in 1881 but he lived just a few months.⁸¹ A son **John** was born on February 17th 1882, and he died about 1925. He married and had several children. **Robert G.** was born the next year on October 10th 1883. He became a carpenter and married Mary Robson. After a serious construction accident he was bedridden, dying in 1938. He and Mary had four children. Their son Arnold was a machinist for Beban Lumber Company. Their daughter Ethel Marie married Captain Robert Reynolds and she had 10 children like her grandmother. This family held a reunion in Parksville in 1994 with 200 relations in attendance. Their other two children were Lucille who married Buttress Lindmark and a son William Dick.

Esther Ann Dick's next four children were girls. The eldest of them, also **Esther Ann**, born on September 15th 1885, married Thomas Henry Weeks. She had four sons and a daughter before her death on November 4th 1939. She was buried 40 years to the day after her mother, Esther. Her husband, Thomas Weeks died in Pennsylvania in 1977 at the home of his daughter.

Wilfred Earle the eldest son of Esther Ann and Thomas Weeks was born on April 25th 1903. He married Elizabeth Dand. Their children were retired Ladysmith schoolteacher Kenneth 1926, Lois 1928, Joyce 1930-1949, William 1933-1992, and Sharon 1940. Wilfred was a mechanic in the family business.

The next son Gordon Henry born on May 4th 1904 was also a mechanic. He moved to Napa Valley, California, married three times and had one daughter.

Esther Ann's only daughter Dorothy Thelma was born on November 25th 1905. In 1923 she married Alfred Erickson who was general manager of the Giant Powder Company at Nanoose Bay. The powder works closed and he was transferred to one of Dupont's Powder Companies in the U.S.A..

John Edward was the next son, born on May 4th 1907. He married Devina Calverley (1909-1980). They had sons Jack and Arnold.

The last child, Thomas Henry Weeks III, of Vancouver was born 10 years later on July 19th 1917. About 1950 he sponsored a Korean boy's

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education. He and the boy are still friends and visit back and forth between Korea and Vancouver.

The three youngest John Dick children were: **Christine Mary Fulton Dick** "Tina" born on April 20th 1887. She married Vancouver jeweller Gordon Biggar. She died in 1936. **Caroline Pearson Reid Dick** was born on March 18th 1889, and married Sidney Smith. They had two children, Purves and Gladys. The youngest daughter **Isabella** "Bella" was born on the April 16th 1891, and so was quite young when her parents died. She eventually lived with her sister Tina in Vancouver. At about the age of 20 she moved to Seattle where she clerked in a store and became a member of the Seventh Day Adventist faith. Her first marriage was to John Dorias who absconded with her portion of her father's estate. In 1925 she married ship-chandler Albert Sayers and had a daughter Marjorie who married Coast Guard Captain Morest Skaret. Bella lived to be 92 years old dying in Seattle in 1983, the last of the children of John and Esther Ann.

BENJAMIN RICHARDSON, the eldest son, stayed on the farm. He married Ida Clare Feidler, a German girl from Alsace Lorraine. They were married on September 1st 1894, a year after her arrival in Nanaimo. Ida died in 1936 and Benjamin on February 2nd 1937.

They had three sons, **Benjamin Abraham**, **John Frederick Jules**, and **William Alfred**. Their three daughters were **Lena**, who became Mrs. Walter Warp of Portland, Oregon; **Esther Seadonah** "Donie", who married Thomas Smith in South Wellington on May 9th 1914,⁸² and **Rose** who married Harry Brighton and remained in Nanaimo.

Benjamin's eldest son, Benjamin Abraham, was born in 1896. As a young man he mined but retired in 1950 to the farm. He married a widow with two children. He died on December 22nd 1972, in Nanaimo.

John Frederick, Benjamin's second son, mined for a time in Nanaimo. He married Phyllis Wooley. They moved to Niagara, Ontario, where he became a factory worker. They had a daughter Barbara (Brooks), and a son Benjamin Frederick. Two of their grandchildren, Evelyn Latham and Yvonne Peters still live in Nanaimo. Joseph, Donald, Donna and Vivian remained in Ontario.

Benjamin and Ida's youngest son **William Alfred** was born on February 1st 1903. In 1931 he married Dorothy Martyn of Winnipeg. They had two children, Dorothy Betty (Marrs), and William George. Seven of their eight grandchildren live in Nanaimo and one, Susan Lynne Ziggotti, lives in Campbell River. William Alfred continued to mine on their property in a small way until 1948. He died on January 4th 1950.

ANDREW was born in Nanaimo on October 1st 1856. He moved to Washington State in October 1878. The 1888 Census lists him as working on the railroad. He later married and divorced a woman named Nettie who was sixteen years his junior. Their only child Louise, born April 1898, married James Bolard of Colorado, a railway foreman. They had seven children; the eldest three were Francis 1917, Cecelia 1918 and John S. 1919.

GEORGE was born on August 27th 1858, and on December 7th 1879 he married Margaret Dixon of Washington. They had at least five children born in Wellington; **John D.** on April 16th 1882, **George William** on March 27th 1884, **Sedonia**⁸³ on May 1st 1885, Robert on August 25th 1890 and lastly Elizabeth. All but John had children. George died in November 1935 in Bellevue, Washington, after a long illness.

ABRAHAM JOHN, named for his father, was born on August 20th 1860. As a young man he worked as a miner in South Wellington. In the early 1890s he married a sixteen-year-old girl from Pennsylvania named Annie. Two of their children died in infancy, and Charles was killed in World War I. A daughter Mary Jane (McBride) was raised by Abraham's sister Catherine McDonald. Annie died in Alexandria, Cranberry District, on June 23rd 1899.

Abraham soon remarried to Harriet Scahall in the Presbyterian manse, Nanaimo, on November 25th 1899.⁸⁴ Abraham gave Power of Attorney over all his business to John Dick on September 15th 1890⁸⁵, perhaps to protect his small children. They had one son Ernest Andrew born in Ravensdale, Washington in 1911. Ernest left

Notes:

82. *NDFP*, 10 May 1914.

83. Five different spellings of Seadonah have been found. This seems to be the most common.

84. *NDFP*, November 1899.

85. *NDFP*, 15 September 1890.

Notes:

86. Correspondence from family.

87. *NFP* and *Colonist*, April 1888.

Top Center: Daily Herald, 24 May, 1923

Below: Nanaimo Music Festival Programme Advertisement 18 May, 1928

school at age 12 to work in the mines at Ravensdale. He later worked as an electrician's helper, as a logger and eventually as machinist with the Pacific Car and Foundry Company. He served twelve years on the city council for Black Diamond.

Ernest and his wife Evelyn had two sons, Dennis who is superintendent at the Seattle Water Department and Ernest who works for the Port of Seattle. They also had a daughter L. Catherine (Marshall) who lives in Renton, Washington. Ernest died on February 7th 1971 and was buried with Masonic funeral honours. His children did not know their grandparents for Harriet died in 1918 and Abraham in 1940 in North Seattle.

Dennis and his wife Mercedes recently attended a reunion in Parksville at which there were over 200 family members.

SEADONAH CATHERINE, "Kate", the only Richardson girl born in Nanaimo arrived on June 16th 1862. She married twice, first to a Mr. McDonald by whom she has at least two sons, Jack

NOTICE

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12 O'clock Noon, To-Day
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and George, both of whom lived in the Seattle area. Kate later married William Wright and moved to South Carolina and to Louisiana where she died in 1961, a few months short of her 100th birthday.⁸⁶

It became a prosperous family business, for his sons worked with him. When the business was flourishing he bought a grand piano from Fletchers and donated it to the

Nanaimo Hospital for a raffle. Thomas had a partnership with Frank Beban's racing stables, which featured horses in races all over Canada and U.S.A. Due to the depression, the war, and too diversified interests the business failed.

PETER, the youngest son of John and Seadonah was born November 1st 1865. He died on March 31st 1888. His father asked for an inquest, as he was not satisfied with the doctor's version of his death. From the brief newspaper accounts it seems that the doctor refused to sign the death certificate. The Attorney General felt an inquest unnecessary after hearing John's plea and the opinion of the doctor and coroner.⁸⁷

John Dick and the Richardsons left wills that tied up millions of dollars worth of stock and property. After lengthy court cases their children got much less than had been their father's intention. Each of the ten children received a legacy, but it was not even one fifth of what it should have been. Thomas already had a livery stable and jitney service to Departure Bay. The legacy helped to build a fine automotive business, which became the first General Motors dealership in B.C.

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shaft.

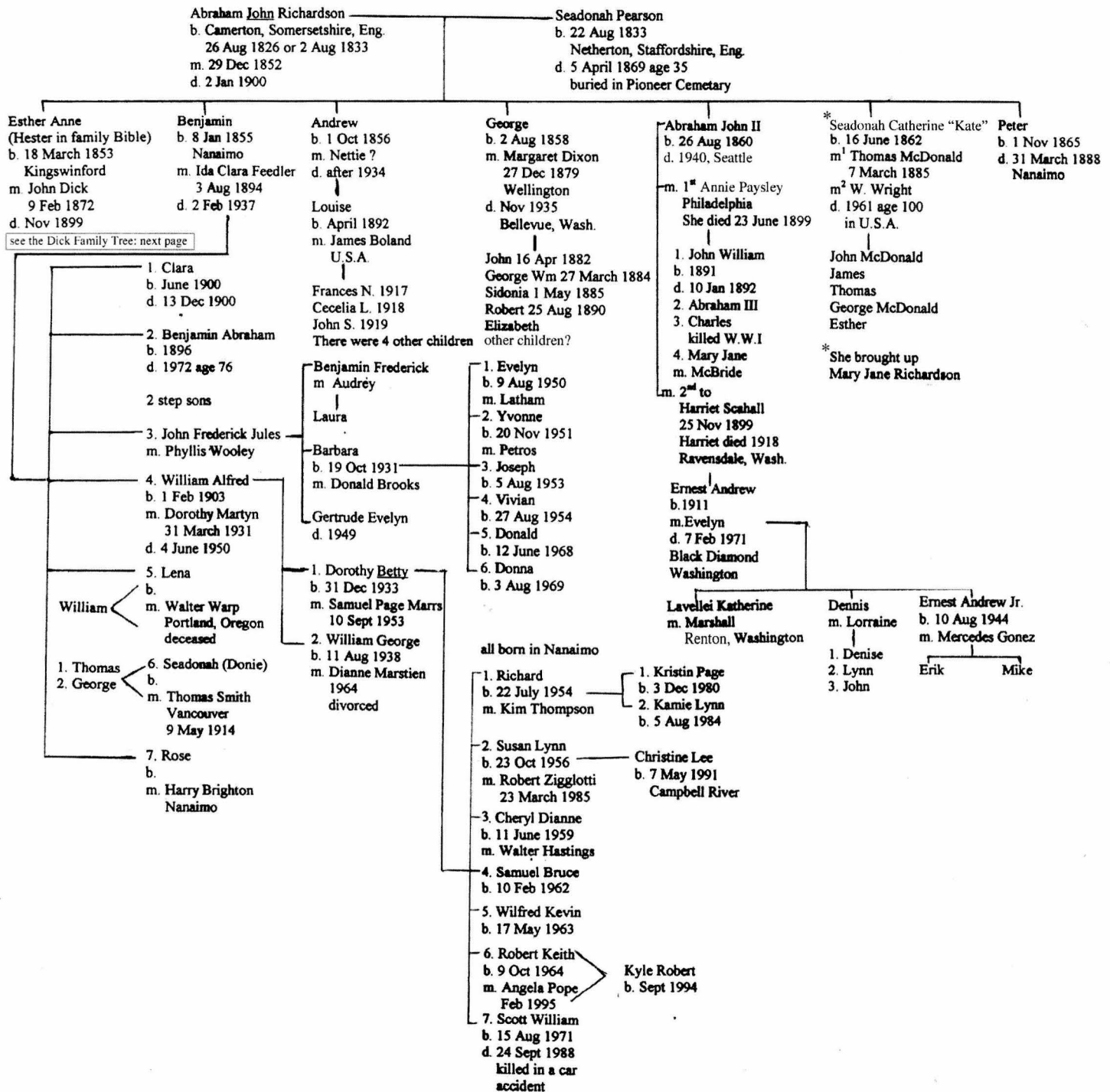
F u l l F o r c e - F e e d
Lubrication.

Invar-Strut Pistons
Silent Timing Chain.

4-Wheel Brakes

TOM WEEKS & SONS

Abraham John (John) and Seadonah Richardson



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[illegible]

Marjorie
m. Captain Morest Skaret
—
daughter

m. Buttress Lindmark

1. Robert
2. Catherine (Newton)

Leanne
Eric

Eric
b. 24 Aug 1956
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Keith Adamson

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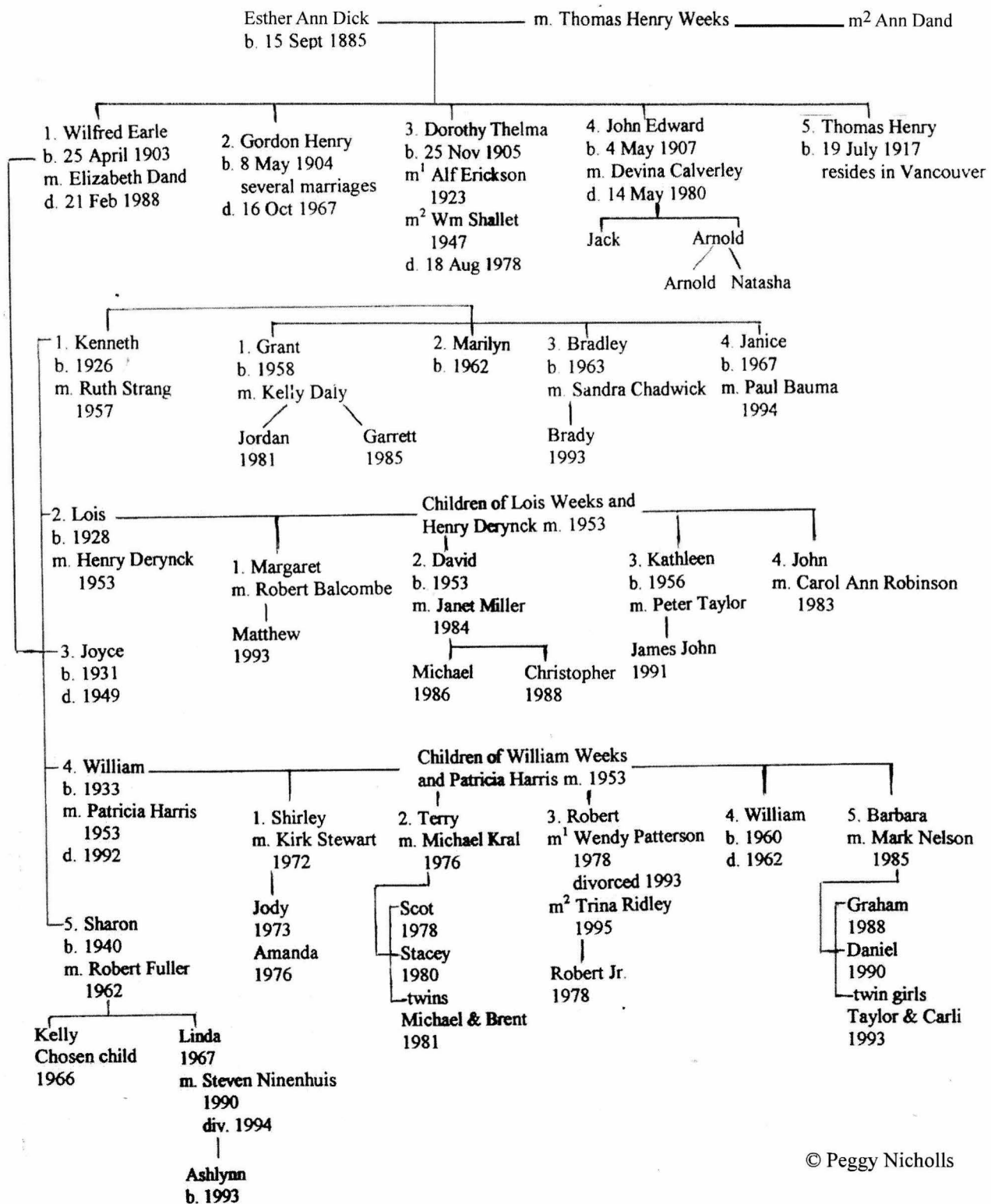
en
July 1984

b. 3

8 June 1929
Edgar Stuckenberg

in

Esther Ann and Thomas Weeks *Sheet 2*



© Peggy Nicholls

Jesse and Mary Ann Sage

Notes:

88. IGI, England, Worcestershire and Somerset, P 18086. file 0515.

89. HBCA-PAM, Log of the *Princess Royal*, 30 September 1854.

90. Ibid. 29 July 1854

91. Ibid.

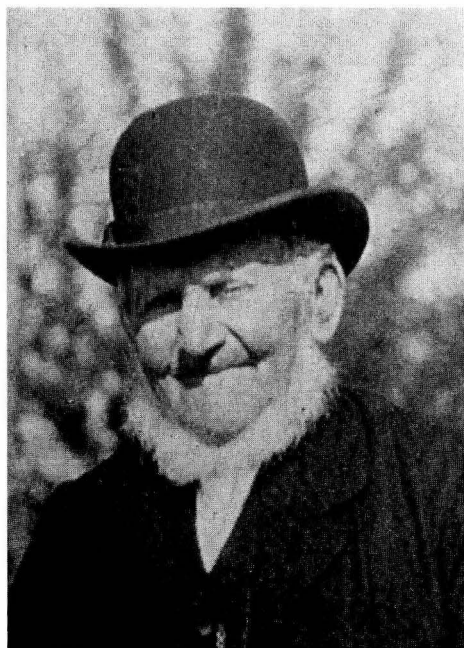
92. Bate, Mark. "Reminiscences of Early Nanaimo" *NDFP*, 16 March 1907.

93. NCA. HBC fonds, Nanaimo Memoranda 1855-1857 19 October 1856.

94. *NDFP*, 1 September 1888.

95. *NDFP*, 27 June 1906.

Jesse Sage
Photo courtesy of
Lena Martin



MARY ANN Dando and JESSE SAGE were married at St. Thomas Church in Dudley' on January 25th 1846. Mary Ann was born to Wesleyan Methodists, Susanna and George Dando in Bath, Somerset on June 25th 1829.⁸⁸ There are very few Dando statistics recorded in Worcestershire between the years 1830-1870 and only two in Staffordshire. Although Sage is historically an old name there are no early Staffordshire records of this name so the family did not have strong Black Country ties.

The Sages sailed on the *Princess Royal*, with Selena who was born in 1847 and William born in 1851. One wonders what preparation 5 months pregnant Mary Ann made for the trip, knowing her child would arrive before they reached their destination. In fact, George was born while the ship was buffeted by a severe storm as it rounded Cape Horn on September 30th 1854.⁸⁹ They were within sight of the barren and desolate coast of Patagonia. In later years passengers claimed that two sailors were washed overboard in this storm. As mother and child did not go ashore until their arrival here, Nanaimo was considered to be his birthplace. A birth was usually recorded as at the registration place of the ship, which would have been London.

On board the *Princess Royal* Jesse had been assigned the chore of "attending on the stock."⁹⁰ He was not one of the landmen who went on strike because of the poor quality of the food.⁹¹

His ability as a miner soon gave him some independence. He began to work at the Newcastle Island Mine first discovered by John McGregor. The slope faced the later Brechin Mine. He and George Baker had a contract to deliver coal from the Park Head Mine. By 1861 he was in charge of the underground workings of No. 3 pit. By 1868 he and his son-in-law Edward Walker were privately

working the old seams on Newcastle Island. They built wharves and a steam winch to wind the coal to the adit.⁹²

While here, a premature explosion fractured Jesse's thigh in three places. This caused him to limp for the remainder of his life as his injured leg healed two or three inches shorter than the other leg. Although his mining career was over, because of his familiarity with Nanaimo mines he was chosen to be a member of the jury for Nanaimo's worst mine disaster, which occurred on May 3rd 1887.

For a time Jesse was road foreman for the newly incorporated City of Nanaimo. In 1888, because his leg continued to be a problem he was given a job in the Court House, where he acted as messenger, usher and janitor. After 25 years working for the city he was retired with a well earned pension.

The Sages lived in a house on the bluff of Front Street for many years. They had three more children: Joseph, born on October 19th 1856,⁹³ Enoch in 1858, and their youngest child Louise in 1862. In September 1888 the Sages moved from their Front Street home to one they erected near their son George's home on Mill Street. "The old folks felt lost over the move. A continuous residence of 32 years is a record not often made in a new country, especially when it is taken into consideration that Mr. Sage has only been a monthly tenant during the whole of this period."⁹⁴

In 1899 Jesse went to Victoria where he had a successful operation for a cancerous growth on his lip. Mary Ann became ill in 1906 and was operated on for a heart condition. The newspaper stated: "Not often so much interest is taken, as has been in the condition of Mrs. Sage during the last few days of her illness, hundreds of enquiries have been made daily."⁹⁵

Jesse was a well-loved figure on the streets of Nanaimo. He was always proud to attend the anniversary of the *Princess Royal* arrival. In 1910 he sent a note to say that as he was unwell he would be unable to attend this year. He died a few days later on December 2nd at age 89. Much of his estate had been divided among his family previously and the remainder was left to his youngest daughter and executrix Louise Dailey.

The Sage Descendants

SELENA , a seven year old on the *Princess Royal*, attended Mr. Clarke’s shipboard classes and Alfred Bailey’s Colonial School in Nanaimo. In 1859 she was a Sunday school⁹⁶ teacher in the (Wesleyan) Methodist Church. In the early 1860s, still in her teens, she married 40-year old Edward Walker, who had arrived on Vancouver Island some years earlier than the Sage family.

Edward was born at Gateshead, Co. Durham, in 1825. After a period in the British Navy, he sailed for Vancouver Island aboard *Pekin* with the Robert Dunsmuirs and Boyd Gilmour. While the Dunsmuirs waited in Fort Vancouver for the birth of their son James, Walker was sent on to Fort Rupert. When Robert arrived, the two friends began to search for coal deposits.

An explosion there broke his leg badly, and Dunsmuir got him back to the Fort where he was laid up for six months, while Dunsmuir preceded him to Nanaimo. Unable to mine on first arriving at the new settlement, Walker worked as a carpenter. He and Robert were granted the first free miner’s licences issued in Nanaimo. Together with Boyd Gilmour, they also searched for coalfields for the HBC.

In 1855 while he was in charge of Northern Natives who were felling logs to build new homes for the Staffordshire miners, two Sne-nay-muxw

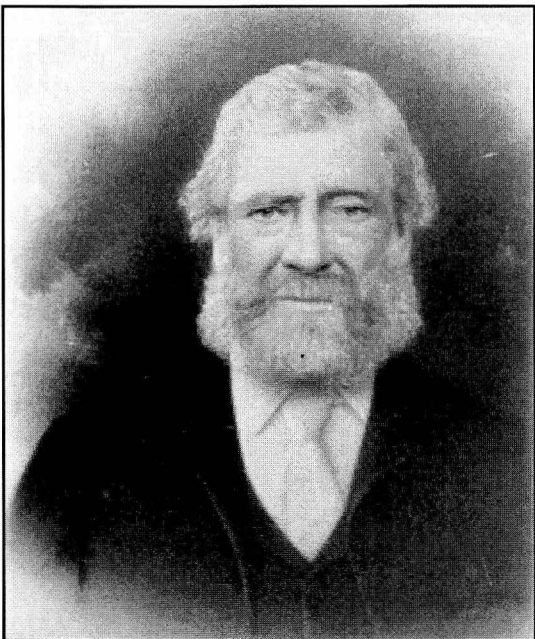
Edward Walker C ^o		4	11	4
By 21 days work at Cameron wharf	2 1/2	10	15	3
" 24 " Ration Money	2 1/2	1	12	0
" 13 1/2 Saw Logs for Saw mill	2 1/2	6	17	6
" 40 Piles for Cameron wharf	2 1/2	2	0	0
" 21 days Ration's Money for Boarding	3 1/2	1	8	0
the Pilot of the Sea wite	3 1/2	1	8	0
		22	12	9

shot and killed two of the loggers. As a result about 100 canoes of Northern Natives from up the coast gathered in Nanaimo harbour. Fearing for his people Captain Stuart, the officer in charge of the settlement, ordered the women and children to the Bastion. After much “parleying” one of the Native chiefs is said to have offered himself as a sacrifice and the northerners left satisfied that they had their revenge.

The HBC Day Book shows that he continued to get logs for the sawmill.⁹⁷ It also helps illustrate that he was very much the Company’s jack-of-all-trades. In 1855 he was engaged to screen coal, receiving a blanket for each ton.⁹⁸ He installed two cannonades in the Bastion, supervised the

Above: NCA, HBC
fonds Day Book, 31
October 1857

- Notes:
- 96. NCA, Chapel Street Methodist Sunday School fonds.
 - 97. NCA, HBC fonds, Day Book, 31 October 1857.
 - 98. NCA, HBC fonds, Nanaimo Memoranda 1855-1857 23 October 1855.



Far Left: Selena
Sage Walker, photo
courtesy of Lena
Martin

Left: Edward Walker,
photo of courtesy
Lena Martin

Notes:

99. Bate, Mark.
"Reminiscences of Early
Nanaimo" *NDFP*, 16
February 1907.

100. NCA, City of Nanaimo
Corporate Administrative
fonds, Series 11: 1875-1881.

101. Undated clippings,
scrapbook held by Hirst
family.

102. Government of British
Columbia (BC) Sessional
Papers, 1893 & 1894. Lists
the years when different
members of the family
arrived at the Cumberland
Mine.

103. Names and dates
derived from Government
of Canada, 1881 Census,
and BC Sessional Papers
1890-1894.

*Below Left: George
Sage, photo courtesy
of Lena Martin*

*Below Right: Mary
Ann Stubbins Sage,
photo courtesy of
Lena Martin*

building of the coal wharves on Cameron Island and later built the wharves for Dunsmuir at Departure Bay. He bought a sail boat, which he used to transport coal to Victoria, returning with supplies of flour and also potatoes that he picked up from the Cowichan Indians. He carried mail and messages between Governor Douglas and the Nanaimo establishment. Because he sometimes had difficulty finding the harbour in bad weather he installed a beacon on Gallows Point (Protection Island) and another in Satellite Channel. Walker Rock in Trincomali Channel is named for him. He was captain of the *Alpha*, a 75 ton vessel built in Nanaimo in 1859 near the Millstone River.

He and Selena had a garden about where Machleary Street intersects with Comox Road. "It wasn't much use to them because it was shaded by good sized trees"⁹⁹ Walker tried mining on Douglas (Protection) Island but it was not too successful a venture. One load of coal was shipped to the Sandwich Islands with Captain Mitchell in the ship *Recovery* that had brought Selena from Esquimalt to Nanaimo.

The Sage and Walker families made many joint bids on city contracts after 1874. In 1876-1877 they built a flume down Albert Street.¹⁰⁰ In 1884 they had a contract to build a new bridge over the Millstone River. It was to be built upstream from the old bridge because a shorter approach would be needed. They used the chain

gang from the local jail to build the approaches. In February 1886 with Joseph Sage he tendered to clean up the "Old Cemetery" for \$27.¹⁰¹ Could this have been one of the times when the early records were lost?

In the 1890s James Dunsmuir sent the Walkers to Union to build trestles and bridges for the railway that was to bring coal from Cumberland to the loading docks at Union Bay. By this time four of Selena's sons were engineers.¹⁰²

On August 17th 1898, tragedy struck the family when the Union Railway train bridge over the Trent River collapsed carrying the 20 car train 120 feet into the water below. Nanaimo and Cumberland went into mourning, for engineer Alfred Walker was killed. Also killed were Alexander Mellado, grandson of *Princess Royal's* Thompson family; Walter Work, 20-year-old grandson of one of the 1852 miners; and long time Nanaimo resident, entrepreneur and former alderman Richard Nightingale. Against company regulations two girls were on board the train. One of them, 17 year old Frances D. Horne, granddaughter of Adam Grant Horne, was badly injured and died of her burns.

Selena and Alfred had a large family. **Alfred Edward**, the engineer killed in the Trent River was born in 1863. He had been an engineer at Departure Bay. His was one of the early marriages at "the Bay". He was survived by a wife and five children. Selena's next child was **Ella Jane** born in 1867. She married James Georgeson at Departure Bay in 1886. Several more sons followed, **William Henry** in 1868, **Joseph**, an engineer, in 1870, **Albert J.** in 1872. The next child was a daughter **Mary** born in 1874. She married Thomas Rains in 1890. **Jesse A.** was born in 1877 and carpenter **Enoch Charles** was born about 1880.¹⁰³ Edward Walker died in Cumberland on March 17th 1902, age 77. Selena died in 1908.

WILLIAM, was born in England, the eldest son of Jesse and Mary Ann. He left Nanaimo as a young man to settle in Buckley, Washington. In 1899 he came back to Nanaimo to live with his family in the hopes of regaining his health but died on July 31st 1899, age 47.



Notes:

108. Government of Canada, 1891 Census.

109. NDFP, 15 December 1891.

110. Ibid.

111. *Vancouver Province*, 27 November 1954. Confirmed by memories of Lena Martin.

112. BCARS Nanaimo School District, Cornelius Bryant Register of Attendance, Nanaimo "Colonial" School 1862-1866 GR 2070 file IK

Five Generations of Sage Women:
(clockwise from top left) Nora Gordon, Jean Kilner, Miriam ("Mira") Martin, Gordon Kilner Jr., Mary Ann Sage.
Held by Family

with their band met on the corners of Commercial Street to sing and preach. In 1896 Eva Booth, daughter of the Salvation Army founder, visited Nanaimo. For this occasion the Sage family donned new uniforms of bright yellow, red and green, a contrast to their more sombre garb of navy blue. When they died, funeral services for George and his wife were conducted by ministers of the Methodist Church, but services for their daughter Miriam's children were conducted by a Salvation Army Captain.¹⁰⁸

George and Mary Ann had numerous children and the family descendants are now widely dispersed.

Their eldest daughter **Miriam**, or "Mira" as she was usually called, was born about 1875. She married English born Daniel Martin on December 15th 1891.¹⁰⁹ The newspaper referred to Martin as " 'Our Dan' of moulder fame" and as "Daniel Martin, the cupola man at Dobeson's foundry."¹¹⁰ Before marriage Dan lived at the Temperance House on Bastion Street. He had been in the Royal Navy and later travelled the world as a merchant seaman. For nearly 30 years he carried the Nanaimo miners to Protection Island, first as mate then 25 years as Captain. He was a Salvation Army member. Like her parents, Miriam had a very large family, possibly twelve. Several of her family have maintained the interest in Princess Royal Day. Arthur, born on January 15th 1903, married Helena "Lena" Fairhurst, a Nanaimo businesswoman in 1939. Together they did much to preserve the Sage story. Arthur died on July 7th 1980

Miriam's daughter Nora married Alexander Gordon. Their daughter Jean married Sgt. Charles M. Kilner. The Kilner's son Gordon was born the day World War II was declared. Charles, already a member of the Canadian Scottish was called to duty immediately. Serving as a Company Sgt. Major he was killed in an explosion, June 9th 1944, three days after D-Day, while leading his troops across an enemy-held bridge in France.

Miriam's son Walter (1901-1963) was a very proud father when his son Stanley sang "Land of Hope and Glory" at the 100th anniversary of the *Princess Royal* settlers arrival.¹¹¹

James Henry Martin married Nellie Downton. Their son James II while overseas married Joan

Shepherd, a war bride, who in turn had a son James III. He married Darlene Gough, great granddaughter of another *Princess Royal* family. These doubly connected families put in regular appearances at *Princess Royal* Anniversaries. Jim and Darlene have two sons James IV born on October 24th 1967, and Jeff born on March 5th 1971, and a granddaughter Haley Ann born on June 21st 1994, to James IV and Melanie Wolff. She will be a new member to carry on the family tradition.

At the time of the 100th Anniversary of the *Princess Royal* in 1954, Selena Sage had 24 grandchildren and George had 31. When George's wife Mary Ann died at 89 there were 33 grandchildren, 54 great grandchildren and 15 great, great grandchildren surviving her. We can only wonder what today's count would be.

JOSEPH was the first of Mary Ann and Jesse's children to be born in Nanaimo. His birth is noted on October 19th 1856, in the HBC Memoranda as: "Mrs. Sage a male child." The next note on his progress is in teacher Cornelius Bryant's list of pupils for August, 1864, "Joseph Sage - Seven years eleven months."¹¹²



Under the training of their brother-in-law Edward Walker, the Sage boys became excellent sailors. Edward's boat *Quickstep*, one of the fastest in the harbour, won many local races with the boys as crew. Another time "the Sage boys rowed a spectacular race for James Sewell, boat owner."¹¹³ However all was not well for the 18 year old Joseph that week. He and John Meakin were charged by Ah Hin with assault on the picnic grounds. They were each fined \$10 or 7 days.¹¹⁴ They paid their fines.

In 1883 Joseph was clearing a road to Departure Bay for Dunsmuir Diggle and Company. His axe was deflected by a root and struck his foot amputating two toes. He did a variety of work. In one instance he is listed as a teamster; in the 1881 census as a house builder; while a voters list gives his occupation as a stationary engineer.

One episode in his career as an engineer is recorded in the Nanaimo Free Press in September 1888 as follows:

"The 'Pioneer' No. 1 locomotive which has seen 20 years service in Nanaimo was travelling between Chase River and Nanaimo driven by Joseph Sage when the brakes gave way. He was carrying 3 flat cars of stone and scrap. Joseph shut off the steam but this didn't stop the momentum of the train; he next reversed the engine but this too was ineffective. He kept blowing the whistle until the train passed Haliburton Street. He could not check the speed when he came to the trestle so he tied down the whistle lever to keep the alarm sounding and jumped off at the trestle approach."

Joseph was unharmed and minor damage was done to the "Pioneer" but considerable damage was done to the "Nanaimo" which it rammed. Coal cars were upset as well. The newspaper claimed that this was the best time the "Pioneer" had ever made and that there was life in "the old boy" yet.

Sometime between the 1881 and the 1891 Nanaimo census Joseph married a girl named Eliza, 14 years his junior. Her father was an Englishman and her mother was born in B.C. but no surname has been located for her. There was a child named Annie living with them but no indication that it was their daughter.¹¹⁵

Joseph predeceased his parents, dying on August 14th 1900. He is buried in the same grave as his brother William, who had died the previous year.

ENOCH was born in Nanaimo in 1858. He, too, seems to have been a man of many trades, for he worked with his brothers, ran a hotel and in 1893 was appointed Pound Keeper by the city. He was to furnish the pound premises for which he was allowed \$10. This employment was under the direction of the road foreman.¹¹⁶

On September 23rd 1890, he married Ida May Sullivan, a sixteen-year-old orphan. Her father Lauren Sullivan had been a quarryman. He was an Irish Catholic and had been born in the U.S.A. as was Ida.

Some years later Enoch and Ida moved to Saanichton where they had a hostel and raised horses. Ida became a good horsewoman. Their horses were killed in a barn fire and this tragedy is thought to have affected her greatly in later years.¹¹⁷ Enoch died in Saanichton.

LOUISE. In April 1874, a school prize winning ceremony was held in Nanaimo at the completion of examinations: "The prizes consisting of a number of handsome books, were the gift of the people of Nanaimo, a subscription having been raised for that purpose." Twelve years old Louise Sage was one of the recipients of those "handsome" books.¹¹⁸

Louise broke with her Methodist family's religious tradition on October 10th 1880, when the Reverend Father Lemmon, Roman Catholic priest, married her to James Thomas O'Brien. Only two of the O'Brien children survived, **Clarence** born 1883 and **Lucinda** in 1886.

James, a member of the Fire Department died in April 1891. His coffin was placed on the hose reel manned by firemen. While the funeral cortege passed through the city the "firebell tolled the parting knell."¹¹⁹

On January 30th 1894, Louise married Irishman Daniel Gregory Dailey, a barber. She died on February 22nd 1915, survived by their three daughters; **Helen**, wife of Lionel Beaver Potts, **Josephine L. Kelly**, matron at Nanaimo Hospital and **Kate Sampson**.

Notes:

113. *NFP*, Week of 24 May 1875.

114. *Ibid*.

115. Government of Canada, 1891 Census.

116. NCA, City of Nanaimo Corporate Administration fonds, Letterbook, 15 May 1893.

117. Family memories.

118. *NFP*, 18 April 1874.

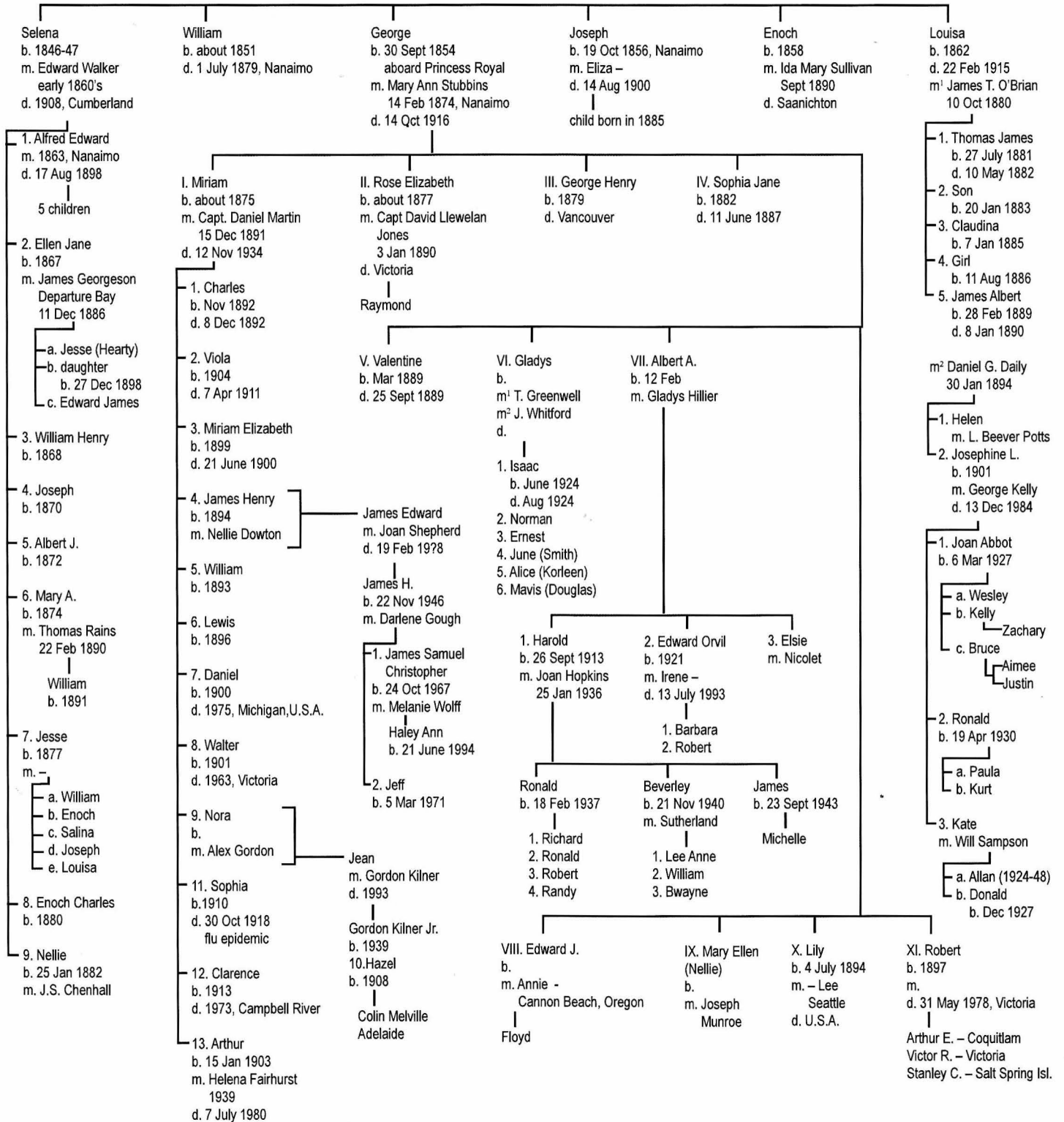
119. *NDFP*, April 1891.

Jesse and Mary Ann Sage

Jesse Sage
b. 23 Dec 1821
m. 25 Jan 1846
Dudley St. Thomas
d. 2 Dec 1910, Nanaimo

married

Mary Ann Dando
ch. 25 June 1826, Bath Somerset
d. 27 June 1906, Nanaimo
(daughter of George and Susanna Dando)



© Peggy Nicholls

Thomas and Mary Hawkes

THOMAS HAWKES, the son of Edward and Jane (nee Jeavons) was born in Staffordshire and christened in Kingswinford on March 9th 1828.¹²⁰ About 1850, he married **MARY**, (maiden name unknown). Their first two children Jane Ellen and James were born before the family left for Vancouver Island, James being christened on August 29th 1853.¹²¹ He and three year old Jane Ellen celebrated their birthdays on the *Princess Royal*.

The family had come from Pensnett, a town 1½ miles southwest of Dudley. It was here that the first experiments took place using coal as a fuel for smelting iron. The town was also the source of special clay used for the manufacturing of fire resistant pots and tiles. Thomas was a coke-burner by trade, and was familiar with all these local products and processes.

In Nanaimo, he made coke for the No. 3 pit, which was opposite today's Court House. An old funnel from the Beaver was made into a smelting furnace known as a cupola. It had a hand-made blower fan, driven by pulleys and belting connected with the pit winding machine.¹²² From this process the first iron on Vancouver Island was smelted. The HBC's blacksmiths could now make and repair the miner's tools more easily.

Thomas Hawkes had the reputation of being a good miner, never afraid of hard labour, and was known for his tremendous strength.¹²³ He had ambition to succeed. In September 1856, in company with other miners, he travelled to Victoria,¹²⁴ where they successfully petitioned Governor James Douglas to allow miners to do more contract work.

The Hawkes' first home in Nanaimo was in the row of HBC cottages on the bluff of Front Street. Thomas soon built a new home on Comox Road. It was swampy ground, covered with underbrush. He then built a small house on Dunsmuir Street near Robert Dunsmuir's home.¹²⁵ Still later he built a home on Prideaux Street.

Mary Hawkes was a noted nurse, and she was soon called on in her new country. In April 1856 she was taken by canoe to Newcastle Island to attend an injured miner, only to find it was her husband, injured in a rock fall, fortunately not too seriously. In later years Thomas again worked

on Newcastle doing contract work. He was also employed at Dunsmuir's Wellington Collieries.

Mary died of a liver complaint at their Prideaux Street home on August 27th 1878, aged 47. Hers was one of the early burials at the new Comox Road cemetery.¹²⁶ With most of his family having moved to the United States, Thomas now left for the Wilkeson coalmines in Washington State. Here he met with a serious accident in which he lost a leg. He died there in 1917, in his late eighties.



Notes:

120. IGI, England, Staffordshire Sheet A, 1923.

121. Ibid.

122. Bate, Mark. "Reminiscences of Early Nanaimo" *NDFP*, 13 April 1907.

123. Ibid.

124. NCA, HBC fonds, Nanaimo Memoranda 1855-1857 September 1856.

125. Bate, Mark. "Brief Descriptive Notes of Nanaimo in 1874" *NDFP*, 1958 (reprint).

126. Nanaimo Cemetery Records and records held by the Hawkes family.

*Thomas Hawkes Sr.
Held by family*

The Hawkes Decendants

Right Top:
Jane Ellen Hawkes
Roberts
Held by Family

Right Below:
James Hawkes
Held by Family

Jane Ellen and
her brother James
along with John
Meakin were the
last survivors of the
Princess Royal

JANE ELLEN attended Charles Bailey's first school in August 1856.¹²⁷ She also attended Sunday school where Matthew Miller was her teacher. As a young girl she became friendly with the Nanaimo Native Band and learned the Chinook language. Because of her work among them, the Band made her an honorary Princess, and she attended potlatches in Native dress.

In the spring of 1866 she worked for Alex Meyer at his Red House Store. "Jenny" Hawkes is listed in the store account book.¹²⁸ Purchases for which she laboured included silk to make her wedding dress.

She married blacksmith Archie McAllister, 10 years her senior. They moved to the U.S.A. after losing their infant child in Nanaimo. Four children were born in California; **Mary Ellen** in 1870, **Henry Archibald** and twins **Rosabell** and **Florabell**. They returned to Wellington where Margaretta was born on September 29th 1880.¹²⁹ Archibald died in Wellington on June 18th 1884. In 1886 Jane Ellen married Edward Evans. Presumably he died, for in 1896 Jane was living near her family in Oakland, California. Here she married R. Roberts. Jane died sometime after 1935, for on that date she was one of three survivors of those who came on the *Princess Royal*. Her brother James and John Meakin were the other members of the surviving trio.

JAMES attended the Colonial School until April 26th 1863.¹³⁰ The young boy was soon working eight hours a day down in the mines, coupling coal cars to be hauled by the mules to the sorting bins. For this he received 75¢ a day. He also worked at the Red House Store to buy clothes.

James was a powerfully built man like his father. Nicknamed 'The Strong Bulldog' he was said to be such a power that in his time he could take on a world boxing champion. The 1881 census records James, his American wife Josephine and daughter **Sarah Jane**. The couple had four other children, **Albert, James, Ethel and George**. James died in Centralia, Washington, in February 1939.

Thomas and Mary Hawkes had nine more children, all born in Nanaimo. The first, a son **WILLIAM**, "Willie", born January 20th 1856,¹³¹ moved to Wilkeson at an early age. He had seven children.



Notes:

127. BCARS Nanaimo School District, Charles Bailey Register of Attendance, Nanaimo "Colonial" School 1856 GR 2070 file IK

128. NCA, Mayer's Red House fonds

129. Bate, Mark. "Reminiscences of Early Nanaimo" *NDFP*, 13 April 1907.

130. BCARS Nanaimo School District, Cornelius Bryant Register of Attendance, Nanaimo "Colonial" School 1862-1866 GR 2070 file IK

131. NCA, HBC fonds, Nanaimo Memoranda 20 January 1856.

1866 Jenny Hawkes D^r

Feb 2	1/2 ¹ / ₂ Stuff	\$	2	50
	Belt & Buckle		1	25
5	1 Hood		1	—
23	1 Corset		2	50
		\$	4	25
	1 By Labour		8	25

March 12	Delaine	\$	2	50
	do			50
26	By Wages	\$	2	80

April 27	2 1/2 ¹ / ₂ Salt		11	2 1/2
	1 May		2	50
20	3 3/4 ¹ / ₂ Lamm		1	50
May 1	1/2 ¹ / ₂ Salt		8	7 1/2
2	1 1/2 ¹ / ₂ Salt		1	25
	Wash		12	1/2

Total By Wages \$ 9 62 1/2
 Paid By Wages 9 62 1/2

Dinner Engaged 22nd May 1866
 1/2¹/₂

1/2 ¹ / ₂	5	5	—
1/2 ¹ / ₂	1	50	—
2/2		25	—
25	Cash	1	—

Total By Wages \$ 7 75
 Paid By Wages 7 75

NCA Mayer's Red House Store
funds

Jane Ellen (Jenny) Hawkes's
listing in the store account book

Notes:

132. BCARS Nanaimo School District, Cornelius Bryant Register of Attendance, Nanaimo "Colonial" School 1862-1866 GR 2070 file IK

133. Correspondence with Mae Beavan.

134. Ibid.

Below Left: Thomas Delbert Beavan Held by Family

Below Centre: Thomas Beavan Held by Family

Below Right: Jack Beavan Held by Family

Anglican Church Records state that two Hawkes children were the first children christened in Nanaimo. These will have been William and his sister **MARTHA**, the next Hawkes child. She married David Webb, nephew of *Princess Royal* passenger Joseph Webb. The David Webbs had a daughter **Mary Ann**, born in Nanaimo in 1876. Their next child **Sarah** was born in California in 1877, as was **Carrie** (1879). The family moved to Renton, Washington, where **Joseph** (1881), **James** (1884) and **Mabel Maud** (1889) were born. James Webb was killed in a mine explosion in July 1919. His mother, Martha Hawkes Webb, died in Renton in August 1934.

SARAH HAWKES was born about 1860, for her age is given as six in the school records of 1866.¹³² She married Frank Kaufmann and moved to California, where their six children were born.

Twin girls **MARY** and **ANN**, born about 1861, were the next addition to the Hawkes family. Ann married teamster and sometime miner John Beavan of Aberdare, Wales. They had six children. **Thomas Delbert** was born March

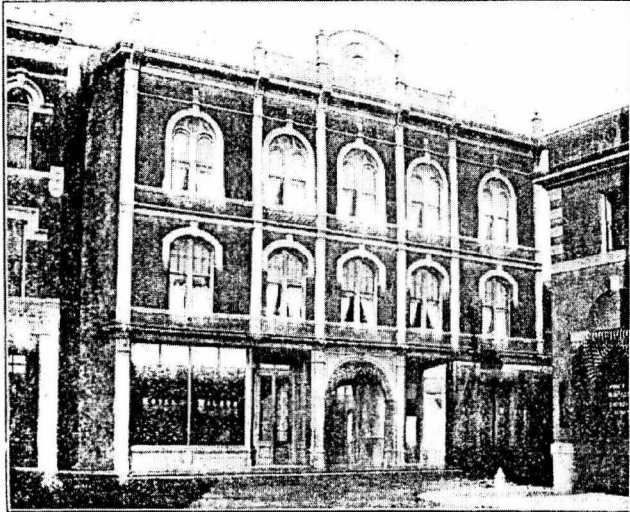
1879,¹³³ **John**, known as "Jack", in 1882, followed by **George** and then twins **Walter** and **Ruth** in 1884. One other child died in infancy. This family also moved to Wilkeson. Music played a large part in their lives, the children having inherited their Welsh father's love of music.¹³⁴

The other twin, Mary, married tinsmith Walter Richard Wilson, whose hardware shop was next door to the Miner's Exchange, the hotel where Martha Webb's husband worked. Walter sold his shop in 1890 and he and Mary went on an extended holiday, returning to Nanaimo in 1892. At this time Walter built Nanaimo's leading hotel of the day, "The Wilson". Although of brick, it was destroyed by fire in 1930. It was not rebuilt, possibly because Mary had died in 1925 and the incentive was gone. Their children were **Sarah**, **Mary Ann**, **Lizellen**, **Gwen**, **Clarence**, **Walter** and an infant who died. Walter died in Victoria on March 19th 1936, aged 81.

JOSEPH went to Australia in 1883 and stayed there for three years. He returned to San Francisco where he became an engineer. Although he married twice, he had no children.



Hotel Wilson



Trawford, leaves nothing to be desired. Hot and cold water baths are at the service of guests at all times, and every room is furnished with sanitary hair mattresses, adding greatly to cleanliness and health. This commodious and comfortable hotel has been under the management of Mr. Charles J. Trawford, formerly of Ottawa and Toronto, for the past two years, and has acquired in that time a splendid reputation for every good feature that can be asked for in a first class hotel.

A BRICK building, absolutely fire-proof, situated in the center of the business portion of the city, close to the Post Office, Custom House, Banks, and all the business houses. The Wilson Hotel has all the advantages required to be what it has always been, the Nanaimo Headquarters for commercial travellers and tourists. The interior conveniences are fully up to the standard of what is required for such a hotel; large sample rooms with every accommodation for displaying goods. Electric lighted and well heated. The office is a splendidly furnished room, upholstered chairs, every convenience for writing. The walls adorned with trophies of the chase, conspicuous among them being a fourteen pronged Elk head, one of the finest in the world, shot by Mr. C. Trawford, proprietor of the hotel, during one of his hunting trips in the interior of Vancouver Island. For travellers who wish to reach Parksville or Alberni, the stage calls at the hotel every Tuesday and Friday. In all other respects, too, the hotel is strictly first class; the Dining Room is one of the best furnished on the Coast, and the *cuisine* under the supervision of the proprietor, Mr.

Above: NCA 1899 Holiday Edition of the Nanaimo Herald

GEORGE THOMAS was born in 1866. He was a teamster and was killed in a freak accident on the Nanaimo Wharf on May 10th 1883.¹³⁵

ELIJAH died at the age of 21 on May 9th 1893 in Wilkeson County, Washington.¹³⁶

HARRIET, the youngest of the Hawkes' eleven children, was married on March 1881 to William Miller, the eldest son of the *Princess Royal* Miller family. They had three daughters; Ida, Lottie and Molly, all born in Nanaimo. The family moved to the U.S.A. in the late 1880s. The Millers were members of San Francisco's Golden Wedding Club, having been married for 53 years. Harriet died in that city in March 1939.

In 1935 Mrs. E. Devlin made a survey of *Princess Royal* families and she estimated that Thomas and Mary Hawkes had had 161 descendants at that time. This was the largest number other than her own Malpass family for whom she found 229 descendants.



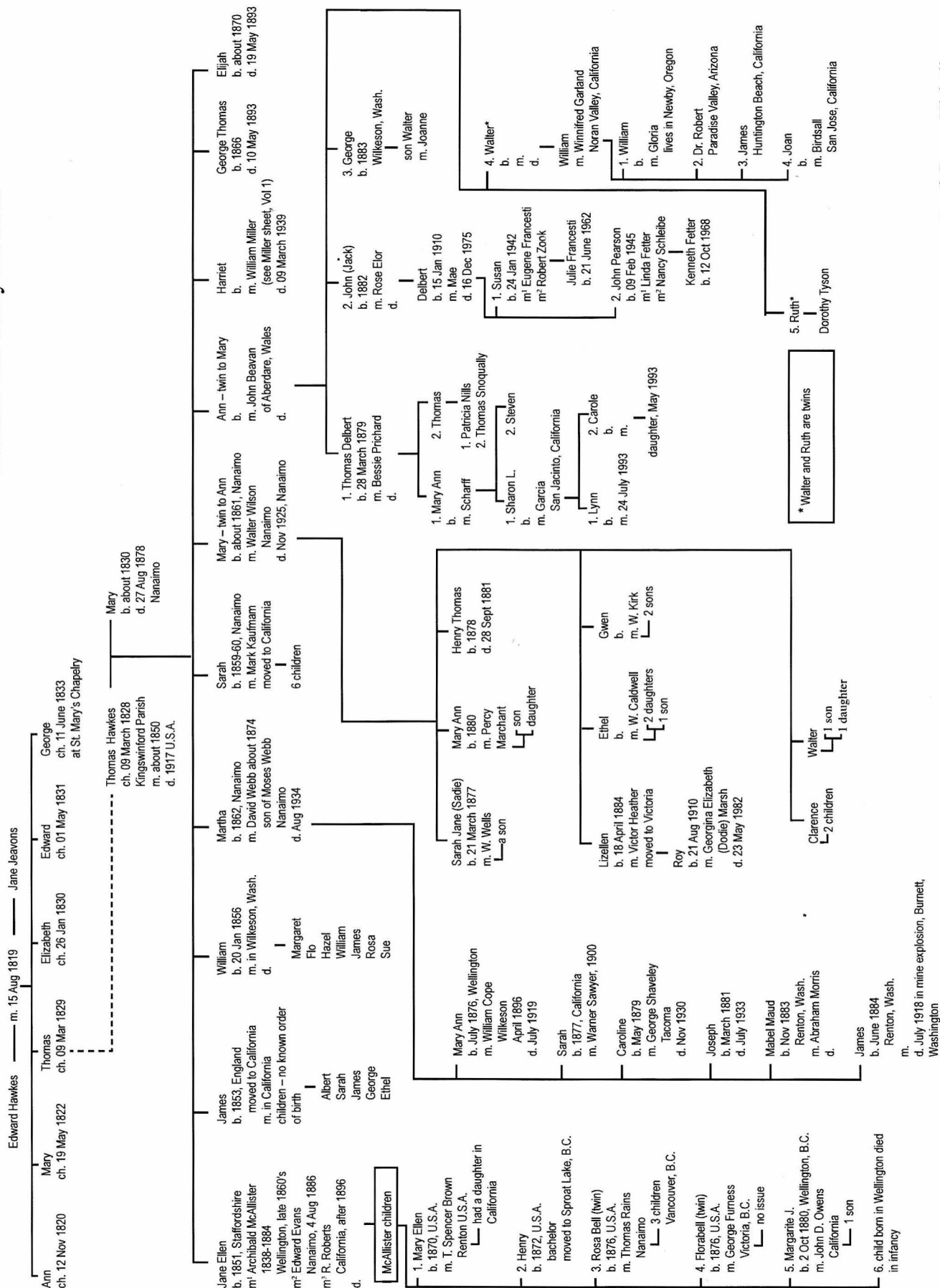
The Wilson Hotel (shown in photo above) was destroyed by fire July 1930 along with St. Paul's Church, Pontiac Sales, T. Weeks and Sons, and I.X.L. Stables

Notes:

135. NFP, May 1883.

136. NDFP, May 1893.

Thomas and Mary Hawkes



Joseph Louis and Ann Bevilockway

Bevilockway has been a difficult name to research. There are many descendants and they present some mysteries and several tragedies. It is believed that the family came from Wales and was previously known as Lockway. A family story claims that because of business or marriage the first syllable was added - a common occurrence in Wales. Louis is used in the first two generations then the California family changed the spelling to Lewis.

JOSEPH LOUIS BEVILOCKWAY was born in Staffordshire in the early 1820s. George Robinson lists him as 31 years old on the *Princess Royal*.¹³⁷ Joseph married **ANN FROST**, who was christened at Saint Mary's Chapelry, Kingswinford, on February 1st 1824. Ann's father is listed as a boatman on the Bevilockway marriage certificate.

Their first child, George Louis, was born in 1847, and is the only Bevilockway recorded in the International Genealogical Index for the whole of Britain. By the time they sailed there were two more children, Margaret Catherine "Kate" and Louis Moses. Ann was also pregnant, for their daughter Julia was born just two days after the family arrived in Nanaimo. It must have been a great concern when the *Princess Royal* was delayed three days in the Straits of Juan de Fuca by severe storms.

The new community shared in making Ann's home on today's Skinner Street as comfortable as possible for the baby's arrival. Mats were put at the windows and the logs of the home were chinked with moss to keep out the cold November winter.

Joseph proved to be an industrious worker, both as a miner and a carpenter. Initially his paycheck was often higher than most of the other miners. However, he was somewhat rebellious for he broke his five-year contract with the HBC and left for Bellingham Bay in 1855, where he hoped to earn more in the mines. He returned in January 1856¹³⁸ and asked Governor Douglas to reinstate him. Douglas lectured him on breaking his contract, but as Nanaimo needed capable men, he re-hired him at a lower wage. To offset this, Joseph did contract work on Newcastle Island and also began using his carpentry skills to build houses. The large house he built near the Indian reserve he

sold to Thomas Bulkley, owner of the Harewood Mine. Another of his homes he eventually sold to the Vancouver Coal Company, which used it as an office. He built two further houses at the corner of Haliburton and Finlayson Streets, and a store for rent on Commercial Street.¹³⁹

The family was of the Anglican faith, but as there was initially no Anglican church in Nanaimo they attended the Methodist Church. Joseph taught Sunday school and his children attended with him. However, when St. Paul's Anglican Church was built in the early 1860s, his and Ann's name were among the adherents.

Joseph was a good friend, for he did his best to save Edwin Gough's life after an 1871 accident when they were both working in the Seattle area. Edwin's leg was badly crushed and Joseph hired Native canoes at several points to get Edwin to Victoria for care.¹⁴⁰ Joseph himself had a bad accident at the Chase River Mine when he fell from a high ladder.

In their later years the Bevilockways moved to 4th Street (now Newcastle Avenue) and Union (now Terminal Avenue) near John Thompson's Mount View Hotel. Joseph worked in the stockroom of his son George's store for a few years. He died on March 16th 1893, just two days after his wife Ann's unexpected death. They were buried together in the Comox Street cemetery.¹⁴¹

Notes:

137. HBCA-PAM, Robinson, George. A 10/35 Paper 308.

138. NCA, HBC fonds, Nanaimo Memoranda 1855-1857 January 1856.

139. Bate, Mark. "Reminiscences of Early Nanaimo" *NDFP*, 13 April 1907.

140. See Gough family history, Vol 1.

141. *NDFP*, 17 March 1893.

The Bevilockway Descendants

Notes:

142. IGI, England, Worcester Sheet, DOW 91, 1981.

Bottom Right: George and Janet Knarston Bevilockway Held by Family

Below: Louis Moses Bevilockway and his bride Mary Lawson Edmondson, in 1877 (top photos) and later in life (bottom) Held by Family

GEORGE LOUIS, born January 23rd 1847, was christened in the family church on March 14th that year.¹⁴² Like some of the other children he attended Mr. Clark's school aboard the *Princess Royal*. He was a good student and continued his education in Nanaimo until the age of 14 when he went to work for his father. He progressed rapidly in the mines, soon becoming assistant manager under mine boss John Bryden, Robert Dunsmuir's son-in-law.

After 13 years mining he went into business for himself, opening meat markets in Nanaimo and Wellington. He also expanded into several other Nanaimo businesses. He purchased Meyer's famous Red House Store, and carried on that

business for some time.

He had a close working relationship with his father. They both signed a petition to protest the "Settlement Act" which claimed that the Vancouver Island Railway Reserves gave a monopoly to a company planning the railway (Dunsmuir's company). George served on Nanaimo's City Council for several terms.

He married London-born Janet Brown-Knarston (1852-1916), daughter of Nanaimo retailers James and Margaret Knarston. They kept in close touch with the San Francisco branch of the Bevilockways, visiting them often.

George and Janet retired to Vancouver where she died on August 18th 1916 and he on January 27th 1920. Both are buried in the family plot in Nanaimo.

LOUIS MOSES was born in Staffordshire about 1849, and was five when the family left England. After a few years at school and a short stint in the mines he moved to California. Many other members of the family emigrated to the





*Far Left: Mary Elvira
Bevilockway
Held by Family*



*Left: Joseph Louis
(Lewis) Bevilockway
Held by Family*

U.S.A. at a later date. Although known in Nanaimo as Moses, he preferred to use Louis. In September 1877 he married Mary Lawson Edmondson (1855-1948) of South Shields, Durham.

Louis became a ship-chandler and also did some work in the building trade. He kept a close connection with his family in Nanaimo, and most of his seven children's births are listed in the Nanaimo Free Press. **Ernest** was born March 28th 1880 and died 18 months later. **Barbara** was born in 1879, **Joseph Louis** on Christmas Day 1882, **Arthur Harold** in 1884, **Alice Mary** in 1886, **Herbert Lawson** in 1889 and **Ruth Austin** in 1896. Their father Louis Moses died February 24th 1924.

The Christmas baby Joseph Louis married Mary Elvira Pollock (1885-1962) in San Francisco on April 12th 1906 (see photos on this page). Six days later they rushed home from their Los Angeles honeymoon to find they had lost everything in San Francisco's great earthquake. Communications were down so they could not send to Nanaimo for money. Bread lines were at least four blocks long. A former Nanaimo man left the earthquake zone to make contact with the many Nanaimo families

who had relatives or friends living in the Bay area to assure them of their safety.

Joseph and Mary moved ten miles south to Lomito Park where they set up a tent for a home. Joseph continued to work with his father, coming home at night to build his house by lantern light. With other earthquake refugees they created a little town, two blocks wide and eleven blocks long, complete with a church and a one-room schoolhouse. Five children increased their family: Milton (1907-1989); Albert Louis (1909-1979); Ernest Arthur (1911-1970); Hazel E. (Hansen) born 1913, and the only surviving child; and lastly Edith Ruth (Werder) (1916-1980). During World War I Louis managed the family shipping firm, building engines.

They moved to Redwood City where they ran a garage. They were their own first customers, as, when they were moving, their tow-truck with their furniture ran into a tree! Joseph Louis died in Redwood City in 1965.

MARGARET CATHERINE, known as Kate, was the Bevilockway's eldest daughter. In the Methodist Sunday School records of 1859 she

*Right: Joseph, Maud
and Ann Muir
Held by Family*

is in a class of 8-10 year old girls, so she was likely born in the early 1850s.

Kate married Captain Austin of the vessel *Shooting Star*, which regularly visited Nanaimo for coal. The Austins had a daughter **Ida**, who married J. Statler. Kate died in San Jose in 1883 and Captain Austin died of dysentery in Nanaimo in 1906.

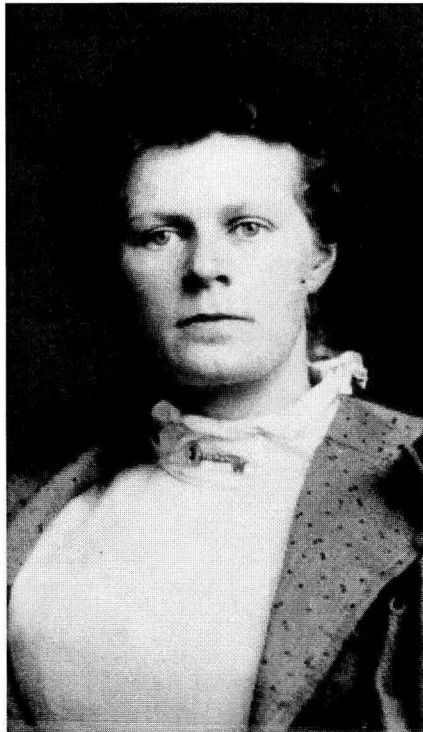
*Below Left: Joseph
Muir
Held by Family*

*Below Middle: Janet
Maud Wilson (née
Muir) Held by Family*

*Below Right: Ann
Dougan (née Muir)
Comments on
back: "Do I not look
beautiful?"
Held by Family*

JULIA holds a special place in Nanaimo's history as the first child born after the Staffordshire miners landed. As a member of the Pioneer Society she reminisced at a meeting about her childhood, recalling clinging to her Mother when the Indians burst in seeking trinkets; her fright when the Bastion guns were fired; and the severe punishments of children at the first log school, for trivial offences. The teacher once struck her with a slate, cutting her head. She fainted, more from fear than injury, and Mrs. Good, the rector's wife who lived next door, bandaged her head. Julia did not think her parents had made any protest about the teacher.

She recalled her first sewing machine, when all her friends gathered at her home to make cotton underwear trimmed with many rows of pin tucks. She also remembered her brothers gathering gull eggs for their Mother's baking.



At 17, in 1871, Julia married Archibald Muir who had arrived on the Pacific coast in 1849 and who, in 1852, was one of the first miners in Nanaimo, when he came from Fort Rupert with his Uncle John Muir and others. Archie was killed in the 1887 explosion at No. 1. Mine. He had been working at the No. 3 level, but was found at the No. 5 level. Being an experienced miner he had endeavoured to reach the shaft and air by way of the main slope. He died with other men at that level of after damp. Poor Julia lost both her husband and her brother Herbert in the same disaster.

They had six children, but only three survived their father. **Annie Frost Muir** was born in 1873 and married Isaac Dougan of Cobble Hill. They did not have any children.

Joseph Edward Louis Muir was born on June 20th 1875. He married Agnes Patterson of the Cranberry District. "Joe" was a "backpacker" in the Cariboo gold rush, carrying freight across the Chilkooot Pass. Three 80 pound sacks a day was his usual work load. He recalled digging footholds in the precipitous ice, with each man stepping into the foothold just vacated by the man in front. He said that he usually came back down the hill on the seat of his pants!

Joe contributed greatly to B.C. and Nanaimo history by tape recording stories of the early days, especially his tape on horse logging. As a Native Son he helped save the Bastion from destruction and acted as its custodian for over 25 years. When he died in 1963, its flag flew at half-mast.

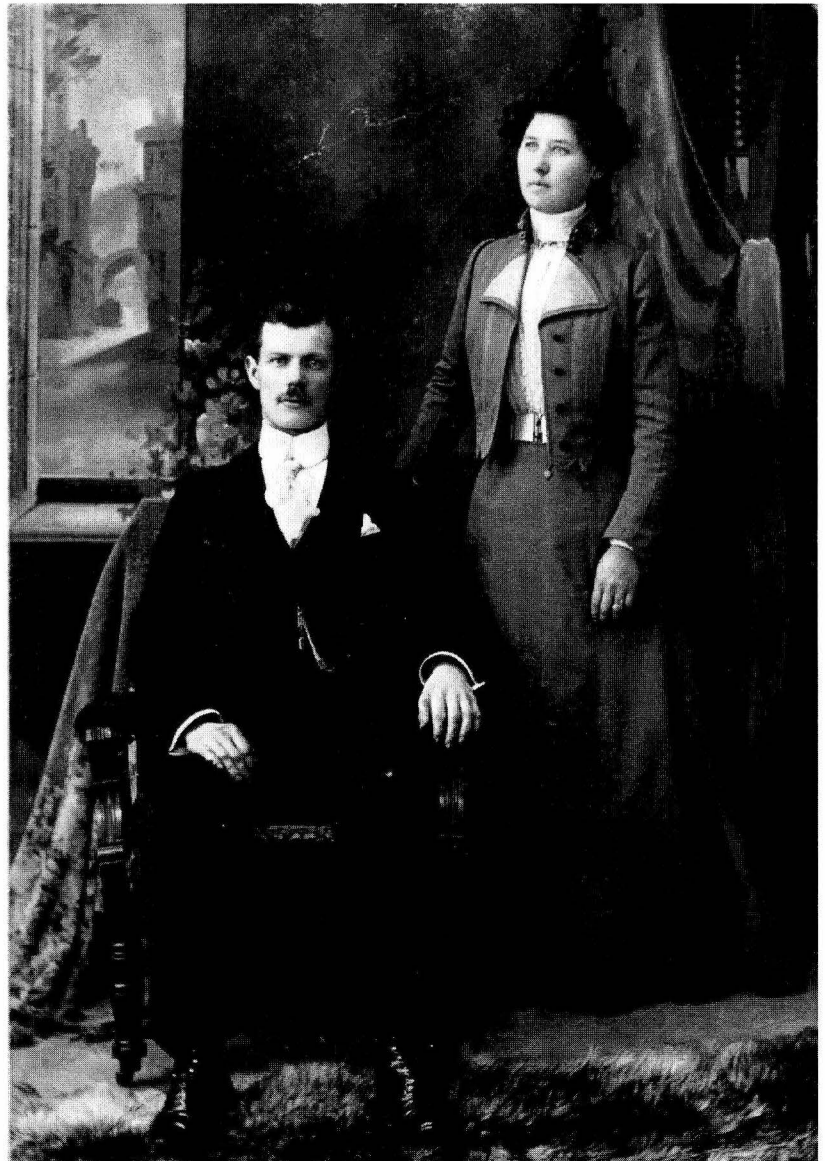
Julia and Archie's youngest child was **Janet Maud Julia**, born May 8th 1878. She married George A. D. Wilson of Seattle, and they had three children: Julia Dean, who died of appendicitis, aged 7; Robert Garwood Wilson, who donated "The Muir Compass" to the Nanaimo District Museum in 1993 and Audré Lucille who married Doctor Nelson and has done much to preserve the family history. In 1993 she had a new marker put on her Grandmother Julia's grave.

Following Archie's death Julia married Edward Brown and had several more children, but only one, **George Brown**, survived her. Her daughter **Julia Catherine** died on Christmas Eve in 1914. A son, **Grenner**, nicknamed "Boy", was

a brilliant student. He became principal of the Wellington School at age 19. His obituary says that he died of overwork.

Julia died on September 9th 1934 in the home she had lived in for 60 years. During her long life she became a charter member of the Pythian Sisters, a member of the Nanaimo Post No. 2 of the Native Daughters of B.C. and a member of the Nanaimo Pioneer Society.

Below Right: Joseph Edward Louis Muir and Agnes (Aggie) Patterson Muir. Her costume is in the Nanaimo District Museum Collection Held by Family



MARY ANN was born in June 1857. As a child she may have suffered some health problems for records show that in 1865 she left school early in April and did not return until July that year. Her marriage to a Welsh miner Samuel Morgan was probably short-lived. On a visit to her sister Kate in San Francisco in June 1880 she died, shortly before her 23rd birthday. She had two children, and the eldest, **Morgan**, lived with his Uncle George Bevilockway at the time of the 1881 census. His father lived alone, classed as a widower. Young Morgan was listed as Welsh, a confirmation that he was Samuel's son.

*Below Left: Julia
Catherine Brown
Held by Family*

*Below Middle:
Grenner Brown
(known as "Boy")
Held by Family*

*Below Right: Edward
Brown and his
grandchildren,
Constance and Helen
Brown
Held by Family*

In 1860 **HERBERT** was the first son of Joseph and Ann to be born in Nanaimo. His life ended tragically in the 1887 mine explosion, which claimed 148 lives. About 6 p.m. on May 3rd 1887 the fire bell began to ring and the news spread that two gas explosions had taken place in the Vancouver Coal Company's shaft on the Esplanade. The mine caught fire and burned for some days. When the bodies had been recovered Nanaimo had 48 widows and 126 fatherless children. Among them were Herbert's wife and child.

The next son **ERNEST** was born in 1865. By the age of 16 he was living with his brother George learning the butchering business.

He married Cecilia Ann Preece in October 1887. Tragedy struck the young couple in September 1890. Cecilia was cleaning and filling their coal oil lamps when a Chinese vegetable seller called at the door. While she was choosing her produce she heard piercing screams from her young son. The boy, **Herbert Thomas**, had somehow found the matches and set himself on fire. He was enveloped in flames and despite the care of Dr. Walkem the severity of the burns took his life several weeks later. He was buried in the same grave as his Uncle Herbert who had been killed a few years earlier.

Ernest gave up butchering and moved to the Lulu Island area with his wife and five children, Thomas, Barbara, Violet, Cecilia and Eva. He became a fisherman and a boat builder. Ernest was a very harsh father and a poor provider, for most of his earnings were spent on alcohol. On September 20th 1927, he was drowned in an accident on the North Arm of the Fraser River. It was not until January 31st that his body was recovered off Point



Grey and brought back to Nanaimo for burial. Cecilia moved her family to Buckley, Washington. Their daughter **Eva** survives in that State.

The mystery: is **WILLIAM GEORGE** the son of Joseph? The family believes he is. He was born in 1876 in Wellington, which would have made Ann 52 at his birth. His obituary in the Nanaimo Free Press says he is George's son. Perhaps he was the second son of Mary Ann and Samuel Morgan and was adopted by George?

In September 1901 he married Janet M. Smith, daughter of Peter Smith. Sadly, she died the following April of a lingering illness. William had a heart condition and spent many months in the Nanaimo Hospital. He married twice again, first to Margaret, who died in 1906. He then moved to Vancouver and remarried. While sitting at dinner with his young wife in the Rainier Café, on August 1st 1908, he suddenly collapsed and died. His body was returned to Nanaimo where the funeral was conducted from the Vendome Hotel by Mayor Albert E. Planta. He was buried in the same grave as Margaret. William had been a member of the Eagle's Lodge and of the Woodsmen of the World.



*Left: Herbert
Bevilockway
Held by Family*

George Frost married Mary Gilbert
04 Apr 1874

George - a boatman
ch. 15 Oct 1785
m. Mary

Jemima
b. 21 Mar 1813

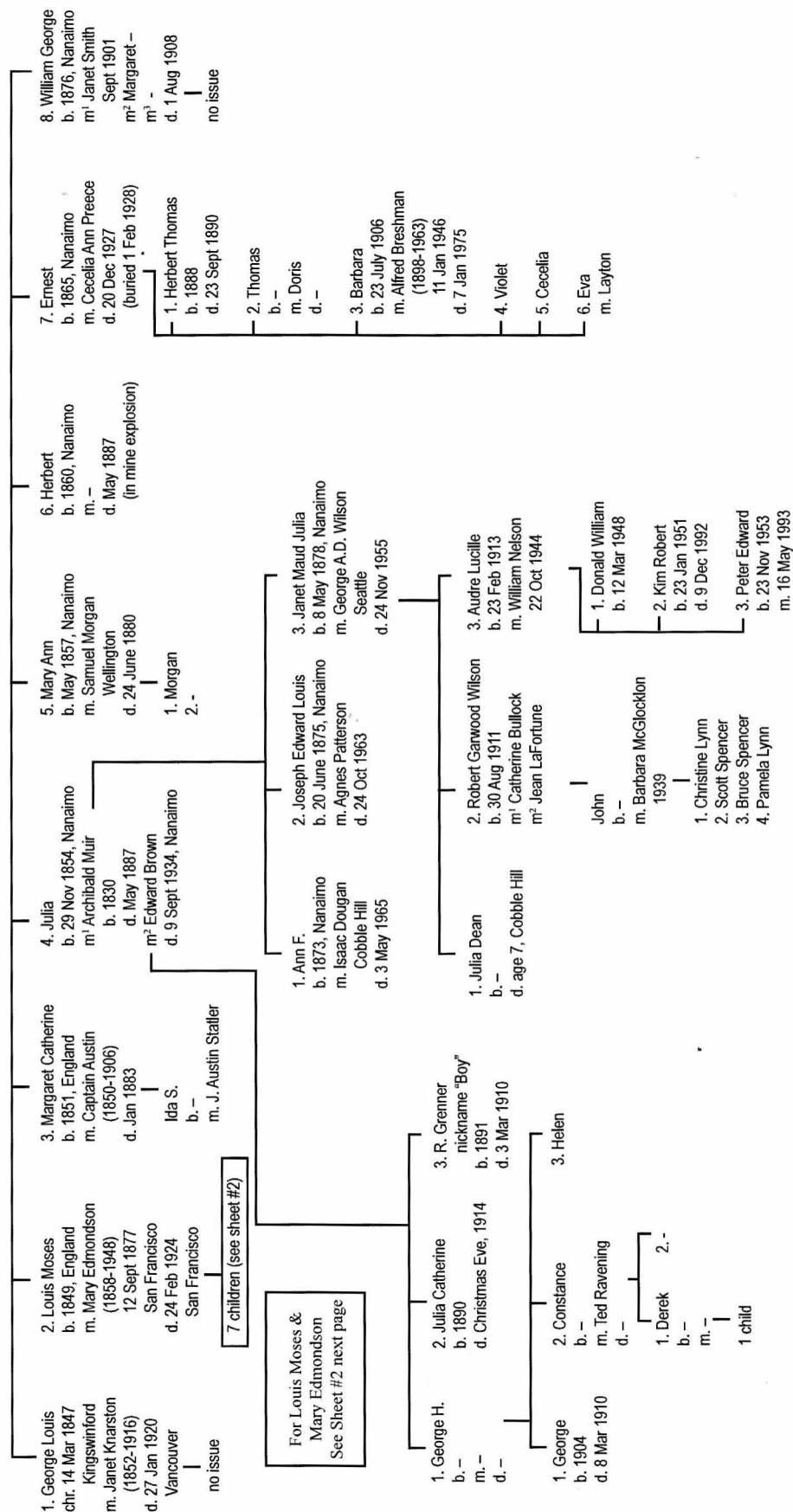
Catherine
b. 10 Dec 1815

William
b. 1818

Ann
b. 1824

Joseph Louis and Ann Bevilockway

Joseph Louis Bevilockway married Ann Frost
b. about 1823 - Staffordshire chr. 1 Feb 1824 - Kings Winford
d. 16 Mar 1893 - Nanaimo d. 14 Mar 1893 - Nanaimo



Louis Moses and Mary Bevilockway

